

Love & Whatever

(An Indirect Sequel to "Johniee")

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INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- MORNING

Spacious, luxurious.

YVONNE, late 20's, dark haired, olive-skinned, attractive, is dressing. Her clothing is high end, spectacular. She grabs her keys and exits.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne knocks. No response. She knocks again.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

BEN, African American, 30's, attractive, shirtless. He approaches the door wiping his eyes. He opens the door to-

Yvonne raises her hand to knock again when Ben opens the door. He can barely open his eyes as he speaks.

BEN

Baby, what are you doing here?

YVONNE

I came to talk. I want to work this out.

BEN

Come here.

Still wiping his eyes, Ben pulls Yvonne in for a sweet embrace and kisses her forehead.

BEN

I missed you, you know that right?

YVONNE

I think so.

(pulls back)

Look me in the eye and tell me you really want this.

BEN

I do, I swear on my life, this is our fairy-tale... But give me a couple of minutes.

Ben positions Yvonne towards the door when she notices something and turns back -- pink panties on the floor.

YVONNE

Those aren't mine.

Ben's eyes widen as he puts a fist to his mouth, trying to play it off.

BEN
You sure? They look about your size.

Yvonne opens her Louis Vuitton bag, removes then dons white Louis Vuitton gloves then removes a Louis Vuitton handkerchief. She kneels and carefully picks up the pink panties. She eyes them in disturbed disbelief then turns her gaze to Ben. He snaps his fingers, "remembering".

BEN
Let me tell you what happened. I was walking home from mass-

YVONNE
You're not Catholic.

BEN (CONT'D)
When I ran into a young lady.
Ugly! Down on her luck. No place to go. I invited her back here for a hot meal. Some prayer. Then I, uh, sent her on her way.

YVONNE
You sent her on her way without her underwear?

BEN
(fumbling)
How do I know that's not your underwear?

FEMALE SINGING from another room.

BEN
The radio, it's uh, compulsive.

THE BATHROOM SHOWER STARTS.

BEN (CONT'D)
(shrugging)
I don't, I don't know.

Yvonne drops the panties, removing the gloves as she makes her way to the bathroom.

BEN
Von, baby, wait.

Yvonne opens the bathroom door-

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

CHELSEA, 20's, blonde. She smiles, cheery as she pulls back the shower door.

CHELSEA
Yvonne! Ben didn't tell me you
were joining us, you bad boy.

YVONNE
Joining you?

CHELSEA
Someone always joins us... But if
you aren't going to, would you
mind? You're letting in a draft.

Chelsea gestures for Yvonne to leave as she shuts the shower door. Yvonne turns to Ben.

YVONNE
All the women in this city and you
choose her?

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

BEN
Baby, listen.

Yvonne wrecks Ben's apartment as she makes her way toward the door. She reaches inside the glass tank near her and removes the Komodo Dragon there. *She hurls it at Ben!*

BEN
Jared!

Yvonne uses the distraction to escape out the front door.

Ben sets Jared back in his tank, becoming delightfully distracted as he pets him. He remembers himself!

BEN
Yvonne!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

In tears, on her cell phone, Yvonne rushes down.

YVONNE
You were right.

BLACK.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- MORNING

A fourth floor suite made up of several other offices. Cherry wood panels, glass, marble. Expensive.

--ON YVONNE'S FEET: Wobbling in her heels down the hardwood floor as she passes the reception desk--

Nearby is EMMA (African American, 40's, attractive). Her disgusted look is enough to describe Yvonne's appearance.

CHAD, 20's, blonde, lean. His fast forward clothing is worthy of front row at New York Fashion Week. He exits one of the glass offices, also taken aback by Yvonne. He puts a hand to his shocked mouth showcasing glittered teal nail polish. He twists his hips, approaching.

CHAD

What happened to you? You look
like the essence of the day after
New Years.

At her office door, Yvonne halts, turns. She is wearing a badly put together outfit, hair disheveled, raccoon eyes.

Chad rubs his neck, uncomfortable with her appearance.

KALEY, 20's, redhead, adorable with a few extra pounds, exits an office beside Yvonne's. She barely catches a glimpse of Yvonne before Yvonne SLAMS her office door! Kaley jumps, shaken to the core.

KALEY

I didn't do anything, right?

EMMA

I doubt it. She went to see Ben.

KALEY

Ben? Oh my god, he is so hot.

Chad and Emma eye Kaley. A moment, Chad lifts his wide slacks like a ball gown and struts to Yvonne's office.

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne is banging her head on her desk when Chad peeks.

CHAD

Von, Von, sexy boo?

Yvonne manages to flail a beckoning arm. Chad whimsically enters and takes a seat on her desk, crossing his legs.

YVONNE

Bring me poison.

Her breath hits him! Chad pulls a stick of gum from his pocket and sticks it in Yvonne's mouth. He then gently places her head back on her desk which she lifts to say-

YVONNE

Thank you-

Chad quickly places her head back down.

CHAD

Chew your gum. *That's it.* Now.
Last week I threw you a Victoria's
Secret themed happy first Monday
of the month party which you
nearly ruined by wearing a shade
of green lipstick you really
shouldn't have. Remember?

YVONNE

(chuckles wickedly)
Baby's diaper.

CHAD

The very one. It was there I also
made you vow to throw out your
brandless bras and panties.

YVONNE

Then maybe this is your fault
because apparently Ben prefers
girls with brandless panties.

CHAD

Oh cookie butter, you broke up?
Again?

Yvonne nods. Chad stands, helps her to her feet, pulling her close as she sobs. He turns up his nose then finally-

CHAD

I'm sorry, I just can't. I can't.

Yvonne is crushed! Chad sighs and beckons her forward. She walks into his open arms and he hugs her with as little physical contact as possible then sniffs her.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Are these even clean?

(YVONNE pushes him)

Girl, shut up. You know how you
look.

Yvonne presses a button on her office phone.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- CONTINUOUS

YVONNE (O.S.)

Kaley!

Kaley is startled out of her seat!

KALEY

Oh my god! Yes?! Yes, Yvonne?

YVONNE (O.C.)

Coffee! *Coffee dammit!*

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Chad opens a large closet, kneels then stands with a glittery pink box. He smiles, sashaying back over.

YVONNE

What's this?

CHAD

Your emergency getaway kit. I packed it after the Darren Disaster of '13. After witnessing your decline from solid eight to generous five, I swore I would never let that happen to *my* friend again.

Chad hops on her desk and pulls a hot pink dress from the box then pops a lollipop in his mouth.

YVONNE

My relationship, the one where I was engaged to be married, is over. Say something helpful.

(CHAD stares blankly)

You're a garbage friend.

Kaley enters with a cup of coffee, immediately smiling. She hands the cup to Yvonne then looks through the box.

KALEY

The Darren Disaster box. Oh Von. He was so out of your league.

CHAD

And I told you from the beginning that he was trouble just like Ben.

KALEY

Ben is hot too.

Yvonne stares blankly as Chad begins to undress then dress her in the hot pink dress. He runs a hand too far up her leg- She pops him! Chad smiles mischievously.

Yvonne is all dressed.

YVONNE

When's my first appointment?

CHAD

(laughs- stops)

No. Sorry cafe latte, but you still look awful. I'm talking haunted, Titanic awful. This lil getup is just to get you out the door. I'm going to reschedule him.

YVONNE

You're not rescheduling anyone.

CHAD

(insistent)

It's an emergency box, not a miracle box.

Chad runs his fingers through Yvonne's tangled hair. Disgusted, he wipes his hands on the back of her dress. Meanwhile, Yvonne sips her coffee then lifts her gaze.

YVONNE

Kaley. What is this?

KALEY

(nervous)

Coffee.

YVONNE

Where did you get it?

KALEY

The coffee machine. I brewed it.

YVONNE

You brewed it. With sweat from a horse's balls?

KALEY

I'm sorry! I'm not- I'm not good at kitchen stuff.

YVONNE

(whimsically)

You put the coffee grinds in the filter. You place the filter in the machine. You hit start and, *oh good golly*, out comes the coffee. Everybody wins.

KALEY

I panicked! I couldn't remember which button was the start button.

YVONNE

The start button is the start button.

KALEY

Then I tried to brew it by hand.

Yvonne is floored then immediately, warily, sets the cup as far away from her person as she can.

YVONNE

My first appointment is in ten minutes. But first, sweet, sweet, Kaley. Find me a damn toothbrush.

CHAD

Find her a damn toothbrush, Kaley.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Kaley is busy behind the receptionist desk. Chad and Emma are nearby, eyeing her as they whisper and giggle.

CHAD

Classic and one of the many reasons I don't do white girls.

KALEY

Or girls in general.

Chad removes a spray bottle from somewhere on his person. Like a cold-blooded assassin, he points it, spraying Kaley in the face. Emma chuckles as fresh faced, hair brushed, Yvonne approaches.

YVONNE

Where is it?

EMMA

In office two where you scheduled him to be.

CHAD
(whispering)
You're making a mistake.

YVONNE
Kaley, I brushed my teeth three times and still couldn't get your dumpster juice off of my tongue, so thank you for that. And you Miss Emma. Erase the sass. You have Mr. Winchester today.

EMMA
No, I was joking. I'm sorry.

Yvonne grins, enters office two and shuts the door.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, OFFICE TWO -- CONTINUOUS

In a corner, a long mirror. Yvonne halts upon seeing the reflection of: CHARLES, 30's, blonde, tall, attractive. He turns and smiles.

CHARLES
Good morning-

YVONNE
Is it?

CHARLES
Yes, I think. I'm Charles.

YVONNE
What do you want?
(CHARLES stares)
What-can-I-help-you-with-today?

CHARLES
Oh.
(YVONNE "smiles")
Well, I recently moved back to New York from Miami. As you can imagine, the weather is considerable less-

YVONNE
Oh my god. Could you not? Would you spare me? I get it. I dress people for a living. I know why you're here. So, *shhh*.

CHARLES
Then why'd you ask?

YVONNE

Are you serious right now?

CHARLES

(backing away)

Right. So, I'm just going to, uh, find an outlet. And hopefully catching a cab isn't as hard as it looks on TV.

YVONNE

(approaching)

No, no, no, no, no. No. Dammit. I stepped on my own toe getting out of bed this morning. I hit my funny bone twice after slipping in a cold shower because my water heater went out for the third time this week. An owl flew in my kitchen- Pissed in my cereal which I didn't realize until after the fact. Then a dog came through my window, stole my plate of eggs fit with new utensils so my dish literally ran away with a spoon. I just spent ten grand on tickets to a Steven Perry/Journey reunion concert in London which I'm still not convinced isn't a scam and to top it all off, my favorite coffee shop was out of blueberry muffins this morning. But I still dragged myself in only to be unjustifiably berated and given liquid dinosaur shit in place of coffee.

(face to face)

You're not going anywhere. Strip.

CHARLES

Alright.

Charles grins, tosses his jacket and unbuttons his shirt.

YVONNE

Hold it, Bieber. Where's your undershirt?

CHARLES

You do understand that I'm here to buy clothes. Do you work here? Am I in the right place?

(YVONNE glares)

I'm trying to flirt. Men don't try to flirt with you?

Not amused, Yvonne approaches a door containing a long pull-out rack of suits.

YVONNE
Look Goldilocks, I'm here to dress
you like a rock star, not indulge
your lack of communication skills.

She tosses Charles a jacket which he examines carefully.

CHARLES
This one's too big.

Yvonne rolls her eyes then tosses him another.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Hm. This one's too small.

Yvonne grabs another jacket then walks over and snatches the two from Charles' hand. He examines the third.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
What do you know, this one is
just... *too small*.

Charles laughs as Yvonne yanks the jacket away and pushes him towards the door.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
What is your problem?

YVONNE
(pops his cheek)
You. Now-

Yvonne "buzzes" Charles away who is rubbing his red cheek. He smirks, slightly turned on by this.

CHARLES
All I wanted was a suit.

Yvonne eyes him then returns to the closet.

Some time later...

Yvonne is lounging in a chair with a half eaten jar of candy. Charles is before the long mirror, taking his time as he smooths every bit of his suit. He glances back at Yvonne -- she checks her watch. He smirks.

YVONNE
This is the eighteenth suit! Are
you really going to buy eighteen
suits?!

CHARLES

Well, considering that there are four weeks in a month, seven days in a week- Five of which are business days, unless you toss a holiday in there-

YVONNE

Well, I'm glad you're good with numbers because that'll be forty-nine thousand dollars. You know what- I don't have time for this. Get out. Get-the hell out.

CHARLES

(approaching)
This is the worst service, I have ever received.

YVONNE

Yeah, well, you're stupid. So.

CHARLES

What are your plans tomorrow?

YVONNE

Plans.

CHARLES

Your plans are plans?

YVONNE

I can't make it anymore clear.

CHARLES

I'm doing a charity event. You should come, especially given your-

YVONNE

I don't believe in charity.

CHARLES

Wow. That is an undesirable trait in a beautiful woman, but I *forgive* you. Let's grab lunch.

YVONNE

Go to hell. And you owe me fifty grand.

CHARLES

(grins, grabs wallet)
That fifty grand you rounded up to, is that before or after tax?

YVONNE

If you have fifty grand to throw
around on suits, *does it really*
matter?

CHARLES

Good point. Debit. No, no. Credit.
I need the miles.

YVONNE

(stares, swipes card)
Kaley will set up an appointment
to have your crap tailored and
delivered within the next forty-
eight hours.

CHARLES

But I need them today.

YVONNE

Well, considering that there are
twenty-four hours in a day and
that there are only twelve left in
this one, you'd have to change
suits every- Hmm, I don't know,
forty minutes starting right now.
So long story short, go play in
traffic. Bye now.

CHARLES

Is this your everyday personality
or is there another, better one
that your hiding in that pretty
head of yours?

Yvonne smirks, taps her watch. Charles begins to undress.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Excuse me, some privacy please.

Glaring, Yvonne turns on her heels.

Charles has finished changing into another suit. He walks
over and displays himself.

CHARLES

Let's grab lunch, but-
(checks watch)
I have to be back in thirty-three
minutes to change.

YVONNE

You're going to die tonight. With
your eyes open.

CHARLES

Come on, I'm a nice guy. Nicer than my brother, that's for sure.

YVONNE

I'm finding that hard to believe.

CHARLES

OK then. If you don't let me take you out, I will buy *forty-eight* suits which means I'll have to change twice while we're eating. And don't think that I'll let you just slip away because-
(comes face to face)
I'll change at the table.

YVONNE

...pizza?

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- CONTINUOUS

Emma and Kaley look over as Yvonne and Charles approach.

YVONNE

Kaley, have whatever his damn name is' crap tailored and delivered.

Charles takes and kisses Emma's then Kaley's hand.

Emma lightly shoves Kaley aside and extends her other hand to Charles who kisses it when Yvonne slaps it away and yanks on Charles. He smiles as he and Yvonne exit.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne and Charles sit at a round table. She is sighing non-stop, flipping through the menu. Charles stares curiously amused. Yvonne looks up at him.

YVONNE

Did I say something funny?

CHARLES

You just remind me of this mean old lady from my neighborhood. She'd throw bell peppers at the children on Halloween.

YVONNE

The little bastards were probably lucky to get that.

CHARLES

You're young, you're beautiful.
You run a cash robbing business-

YVONNE

Credit.

CHARLES

What's your problem? Are you
having a bad, are you disturbed?

YVONNE

I don't have a problem and the
only thing disturbing me is you.

CHARLES

What really happened?

YVONNE

OK. My fiance- *Ex* fiance has been
humping his gerbil faced, bleach
blonde bimbo neighbor Chelsea who
was to be my maid of honor the
first time he and I were engaged.
What kind of name is Chelsea
anyway? Sounds communicable. Slut.

CHARLES

I disagree. I just can't see a
doctor approaching his patient,
hand on chest saying, *I'm sorry,*
but I'm afraid you've got the
Chelsea. Unless that doctor is my
brother. He *is* dumb.

(YVONNE stares)

He's a jerk. Simple as that.

YVONNE

He's a jerk because he does what
men do best? Lie, cheat and sleep
with Chelseas.

CHARLES

I've never slept with a Chelsea.
And not all men are cheaters.

YVONNE

Please. Cheating is like airbags
with you men, it comes standard.

CHARLES

OK. So what if, based solely on my
interaction with you, I claimed
all women are jerks? And mean?

YVONNE

Go to hell.

Charles laughs then signals for the WAITRESS, adorable.

WAITRESS

Hi, you guys ready to order?

CHARLES

Yes, I'll have a slice of mushroom and pepperoni please. Hold the pepperoni. And substitute the mozzarella for goat cheese- My neighbor's wife turned me onto that. Which reminds me, we have to stop by this great sandwich shop. And may I have that on thin crust, please and thank you.

YVONNE

That sounds like death. I'll have-

CHARLES

The jerk will have the same.

WAITRESS

(uncomfortable)

We don't have goat cheese-

CHARLES

And two club sodas.

Charles winks at Waitress then shoos her away.

YVONNE

That was incredibly rude.

CHARLES

I'm sorry, have you met you?

YVONNE

I'm just saying, I would never presume to order for anyone.

WAITRESS

Again, we do not carry goat cheese.

CHARLES

Hm. Feta?

WAITRESS

...we don't recommend that.

YVONNE

Just bring the damn monkey a banana!

WAITRESS

We don't have bananas-

YVONNE

Cheese pizza. Cheese-pizza-please.

Relieved, Waitress sighs and steps away.

CHARLES

She's just doing her job.

Yvonne glares. Several moments, Waitress returns.

WAITRESS

Cheese is always in the oven.

YVONNE

Now get lost before he starts throwing poop all over the place.

WAITRESS

I don't understand.

Yvonne kindly takes confused Waitress' hands and smiles.

YVONNE

Just go.

CHARLES

So what do you do for fun?

YVONNE

Before Ben gutted me like a fish, I hung out with him for fun.

CHARLES

I know how that feels.

YVONNE

I didn't ask.

CHARLES

(laughs)
You are so mean.

YVONNE

I'm not! My ex is still screwing my former best friend, I stepped in gum three times this morning before I even got to my car-

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(holds up hand)
I can't feel my pinky!
(brushes hair aside)
A lizard bit my neck, gave me a
hickey. And the cherry on top of
this mountainous disaster: A
charmless, narcissist ass hat
strolled his goat cheese eating
face into my office and harassed
me for the better part of my day.

CHARLES

Wow.

YVONNE

Exactly-

CHARLES

I really wanted those mushrooms.

Yvonne is appalled as Charles beckons Waitress.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Could I just get some mushrooms on
the side. Thanks? Off your pop...

YVONNE

Are you dying? You're dying. And
your last wish is to make everyone
around you miserable before you
kick the bucket. Makes sense.

Waitress returns. Sets down a small bowl of mushrooms.

WAITRESS

I've never been asked for that
before.

Charles picks up the mushrooms with his bare hands and
tosses them onto the pizza. He takes a slice, and dumps
it on Yvonne's plate. She stares blankly.

Waitress just excuses herself as Charles begins to eat.
He spots Yvonne eyeing him, arms crossed.

CHARLES

What?

YVONNE

I'm allergic to mushrooms.

Charles rolls his eyes then reaches over and removes each
mushroom from her pizza individually, tossing them in his
mouth one by one. He licks his finger and smiles.

CHARLES
Now you have no excuse.

YVONNE
(takes purse, stands)
Now I have every excuse.

CHARLES
Where are going?

YVONNE
To get hit by a taxi.

CHARLES
Alright, see you tomorrow.

YVONNE
(halts, turns)
Beg your pardon.

CHARLES
I have a funeral. I need a suit.

YVONNE
You just bought eighteen!

CHARLES
Work suits. I need a funeral suit.

YVONNE
What the hell is a funeral suit-
(calm)
Goodbye.

CHARLES
You're not going to split the
bill?

Stone-faced, Yvonne removes a \$20 bill from her purse and
dumps it on the table. Charles smiles.

CHARLES
See you tomorrow.

Yvonne goes as Waitress approaches Charles.

WAITRESS
First dates can be, awkward.

CHARLES
(nods, agreeing)
She was very awkward. May I have a
box please?

EXT. PIZZA PARLOR -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne exits when she spots YOUNG MAN passing out flyers. Yvonne takes one -- a charity event: DRESS THE HOMELESS. She smiles when spots a HOMELESS MAN sitting not too far off. She approaches and hands him a \$100 bill. His eyes light up, when Yvonne "shushes him" with a smile.

Yvonne hails a cab when she spots a COFFEE SHOP in the distance -- the same coffee shop from the screenplay "JOHNIEE". She makes her way across the street.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -- CONTINUOUS

**Denotes a character from the screenplay "JOHNIEE".

Yvonne enters when behind her-

**CHRIS, Chinese, looks 30ish, a broad smile across his face and a NEWBORN strapped to his chest.

Chris brushes past Yvonne and makes his way to the front. He RINGS THE BELL on the counter.

CHRIS

Hello, service.

YVONNE

You just cut in front of me.

Smiling, Chris rings the bell twice more.

**GLENDA, 30's, annoyed, the manager, appears behind the counter. Stone-faced, she never breaks eye contact as she prepares two drinks for him and pushes them forward.

GLENDA

Six dollars and eighty-two cents.

Still smiling, Chris extends a bill. Glenda processes the transaction then dumps the change in the tip jar.

Chris eyes this, smiling while also deciding if he should be angry or brush it off while Glenda eyes Yvonne.

GLENDA

Ugh, you again. We're closed.

Glenda disappears to the back. Chris turns around- Yvonne is only inches from him.

YVONNE

You cut in front of me.

Chris side-steps right, Yvonne follows. He side-steps left, she follows. Still smiling, but less joyful, Chris is breathing more heavily.

CHRIS
Move, dammit.

YVONNE
You move. Dammit.

CHRIS
(angry)
I have a child!

YVONNE
You-have-my-coffee!

Chris sets the coffees aside then launches a chair at Yvonne who dodges it, more angry than surprised. She lifts a chair of her own when THE NEWBORN CRIES. Chris grins wickedly as Yvonne sets the chair down.

YVONNE
I'm sorry. I've had a bad day and
it's just coffee after all.

Yvonne moves to the door and holds it open for Chris who smugly brushes aside his make-believe locks, grabs the coffees and starts to exit when-

Yvonne bites Chris' arm, takes both coffees, dumps one down his pants then makes off with the other!

Chris flings the door open!

CHRIS
*You're dead! You come around here,
you're dead- Your whole family-*
(NEWBORN cries)
Oh, it's alright... Dead!

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Chad, Kaley and Emma look up as Yvonne storms in. She slings the empty coffee cup in the garbage!

YVONNE
If that bastard's clothes are
still back there so help me God
you'll all wish you'd paid more
for your dental!

Yvonne enters her office and slams the door!

The threesome stare at each other. Chad eyeballs Emma.

EMMA

It's my time of the month, I'll
only make it worse.

Emma and Chad look to Kaley who is immediately flustered.

KALEY

I can't. She... The coffee. I...

Chad rolls his eyes. He removes strawberry flavored lip gloss from his pocket, pouts, applies, licks his lips, pouts, then applies once more. He removes body spray from his pocket which he sprays in front of him and catwalks through with a twirl toward Yvonne's office door.

CHAD

Women.

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Chad peeks his head in to see Yvonne on her office phone.

YVONNE

I know you're sorry- Sorry and
pathetic! And don't bother asking
for your ring back because I threw
it so far it's probably in Jersey!

Yvonne slams the phone down on the hook.

CHAD

Sweet potato, honey bunches?

YVONNE

I'm sorry. Bring them in here so I
can tell them I'm sorry.

Yvonne's office phone RINGS. She answers!

YVONNE

It *doesn't* happen to every man and
I hope you get chlamydia in your
asshole, you limp- Oh, hey nana...
Yes, I will come visit you and
grandpa this weekend to make
snickerdoodles... Yes, I *will* wash
my mouth out with soap first...
And tell Jesus I'm sorry... No, I
don't want to know what color your
stool was- *Great*. Well, I'll see
you this weekend. Love you too.

Yvonne lowers the phone on the hook. Chad envelopes her with a warm embrace as she begins to whimper.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I didn't throw it to Jersey. I pawned it and used the money to pay for my and Kaley's tickets to see Steve Perry reunite with Journey in London because they're-
(breaks down crying)
Really, really, really expensive.

CHAD

I know, butterscotch. I go through your statements.

Yvonne starts to speak, but Chad pulls her closer when her office phone RINGS again. Chad quickly takes the entire phone and hurls it toward the door!

Kaley is just entering with a smile-

KALEY

Yvonne, I thought you might like some- *Oh my god!*

Kaley shuts the door just in time!

CHAD

It's okay, waffle. Melt into me.

Chad's hands slowly move down Yvonne's back. She opens her eyes as his hands move lower and lower.

YVONNE

Chad?

CHAD

That's it. Keep melting.

Yvonne breaks away and clears her throat as Kaley cautiously enters with a cup of coffee.

KALEY

Can I come in?

YVONNE

Please.

Chad exhales as if he'd just been caught in a very sensual moment. He smooths his hair and fans himself.

KALEY

I'm sorry about you and Ben.

CHAD

(squints)
Don't say it. Don't you say it-

KALEY

He was just so hot. Too hot to be true. I knew you'd ruin it.

YVONNE

Me? He- Never mind.

As Yvonne heads for the door, excited Kaley hops in front of her and presents a cup of coffee. Yvonne sniffs it.

KALEY

Right?

YVONNE

Disgust: Pour this out, bleach this cup then throw away this cup.
Compliment: Your hair is *glorious*.

Conflicted, Kaley eyes Yvonne as she exits.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- CONTINUOUS

Charles and Emma are giggling when Yvonne stops in her tracks. Eyes wide, she takes a step back into her office and right into Kaley who is stepping forward-

Yvonne screams as the hot coffee spills over her back.

KALEY

It's not my fault!

Chad turns Kaley and pops her face.

CHAD

Damn marshmallow.

Chad pulls Kaley away as Charles moves behind Yvonne and begins wringing the coffee from her dress like a wet towel. Without expression, Yvonne just lets it happen.

CHARLES

You know, this would have never happened had you been wearing your jacket. You left it at the parlor.

YVONNE

That's not mine.

Charles loses his smile then eyes the coat.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

So, thank you for nothing. You may go. And I hate you.

CHARLES

You're exaggerating. She's exaggerating. She doesn't-

Yvonne has disappeared into her office, slamming the door while Chad and Kaley exits Office #1, watching as Charles leans into Yvonne's office door.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

OK, well, I'll just hold on to this jacket that I've stolen as a symbol of my affection.

Charles nods to the threesome as he leaves. Their eyes follow him, mesmerized. Chad's lips are pouted, Kaley is biting her lip and Emma is rubbing her chest. They continue in this daze for several moments.

EMMA

What?

CHAD

Nothing. I was just admiring that magnificent...

KALEY

I was supposed to do something. With this cup.

YVONNE (O.S.)

...you're all fired!

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, CHAD'S OFFICE -- HOURS LATER

Chad sits at his desk doing paperwork when Kaley enters with a smile and sits on the desk.

CHAD

Kaley, it's a desk not a concrete slab.

Kaley stands, snubbed as Emma enters.

EMMA

So what exactly happened?

CHAD

Box color Chelsea happened.

KALEY

I use box color.

Chad knows! He eyes Kaley's hair.

EMMA

Ugh, I always hated that girl. I told Yvonne to cut that little tramp out of her life.

KALEY

Chelsea is the one with the, uh. The, you know. The fake, the uh-

Kaley gestures around her chest. Chad rolls his eyes.

CHAD

Fake breasts?

EMMA

They're fake? That explains the lazy eye. How did she find out?

YVONNE

(in the doorway)
I found her in his apartment.

EMMA

I'm sorry, baby.

KALEY

Is there anything I can do?

YVONNE

Not unless you're willing to shoot me in the face.

Kaley shakes her head. Yvonne smirks.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I'm heading out and won't be in tomorrow so breakfast and lunch are on me, OK? Goodnight.

Yvonne approaches Kaley and kisses her forehead with-

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Mommy loves you.
(kisses Emma's cheek)
Mommy loves you.
(approaches Chad)
Mommy-

Chad takes Yvonne's head, sticking his tongue out!

Yvonne manages to ward him off smiling, unbothered.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

And good night.

Chad tilts his head watching her leave. Emma smacks him.

CHAD

What? She's delicious. And you're delicious. Rar!

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- LATER

Yvonne arrives at her door where a bouquet of red roses sit with a note. Yvonne steps over the roses and enters.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne hits a button on the answering machine then grabs a drink from the refrigerator while...

VOICEMAIL

You have twelve new messages.

First new message: (Ben's voice:

E, we gotta talk baby. I know you're angry, but we have to talk. Please call me back).

(Yvonne deletes it)

Next new message: (Ben's voice:

It's me again. I know you're not home right now, but please let me-

(Yvonne deletes it)

Next new message: (Charles' voice:

Hi, hello?

Yvonne spits out her drink!

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)

(Charles' voice: Is this thing on? --laughs-- I'm kidding.)

YVONNE

No, damn you!

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)

(Charles' voice: Anyhoo, sorry to stalk you like this, but Emma practically shoved your number down my throat. And I only had to ask twelve times. So, whenever it's least convenient for you, I'd like to see you again.

(MORE)

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)

So, we'll set it up when I stop by for the suit... For the funeral... This is Charles.) **Next new message:** *(Emma's voice: Hey, sugar lumps. This is Emma. I gave that cute guy Alex --* **Kaley's voice:** *No, Charles--* **Emma's voice:** *Charles your number. OK, night baby. Muah.)* **Next new-**

Yvonne stops the answering machine.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne falls face first onto her bed and shuts her eyes. She opens them again -- MORNING.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne, brushing her teeth, begins to whimper. Then--
IN THE SHOWER, she begins to whimper.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne enters in sweat pants and a tank top, holding a bag of gummy bears. She plops on the couch and turns on the television. She begins to whimper then becomes immediately engaged in the television show.

Yvonne has been stuffing her face, when she checks the clock: 8:30 am. She shuts off the television then moves to the front door where four STUFFED white garbage bags are waiting beside the door. Yvonne opens the door and squats, taking the tops of each bag. With obvious difficulty, she shuffles backward out the door.

A moment, Yvonne's hand reaches in and shuts the door.

INT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Dressed casually, Yvonne is placing two large, stuffed white garbage bags into her trunk. She shuts it--

EXT. PARK -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Dozens of people have gathered, many with large, stuffed bags of their own.

Above a table where lines have formed is a BANNER: "DRESS TO IMPRESS" where VOLUNTEERS are assigning clothes to the HOMELESS and LESS FORTUNATE.

Yvonne is struggling to get her two bags to the line when they are taken from her! She looks over-

CHARLES

Plans are plans.

YVONNE

Those are my bags.

Yvonne reaches for the bags, but Charles smiles, pulling them back. He then opens and looks through them.

CHARLES

Wow. Chanel, Prada. You're parting with some very expensive items, ma'am. I thought you didn't believe in charity.

SUZANNE, 40's, with red hair, smiling with lots of gums, but attractive, approaches -- *that person*.

SUZANNE

Doesn't believe in charity? This is her charity!

Suzanne's HORRIBLE LAUGH causes Charles to stumble back.

SUZANNE

Suzanne J. Hall, event organizer.

CHARLES

Charles Go-

SUZANNE

Charles, charles, bo barles.

Suzanne laughs once more then ceases without expression.

YVONNE

Charles, this is Suzanne-

SUZANNE

J. Hall.

YVONNE

My event organizer.

SUZANNE

Change your clothes, change your world. That's our motto.

YVONNE

Except, it isn't. Suzanne, why don't you give Gerald over in men's accessories a hand.

SUZANNE

A helping hand or a-

Suzanne balls her hand into a fist and violently motions it up and down. Charles is appalled, Yvonne only stares.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(laughs, stops!)

Fun fact: The hand job is the least pleasurable of all male sexual experiences. Isn't that right, Gerald?

Suzanne turns and waves at GERALD, 40's, tall, gangly, a man who lives in a perpetual state of pain and fear.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

He's not pretty, but he satisfies. Charles, nice to meet you. Yvonne, catch you later. Suzanne J. Hall.

Several moments pass before Suzanne finally steps away.

CHARLES

Wow.

YVONNE

I know, I apologize.

CHARLES

No, not about the awful, awful woman. This is your charity?

YVONNE

It's nothing really.

CHARLES

What? There's at least two-hundred people here. Clothes, shoes. And, is that a job fair?

YVONNE

Local small business mostly. Restaurants, retail shops-

CHARLES

Don't downplay it. This is incredible. And here I had you pegged for a snob.

YVONNE
I'm not a snob.

CHARLES
I see that.

A moment, Yvonne starts off, but Charles halts her.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Hey. I *was* a bit of an ass hat.

Yvonne eyes him then steps away. Charles sighs, dropping his shoulders. He lifts his bags and moves on -- in the distance, Suzanne is talking to several BOTHERED PERSONS.

SUZANNE
Fun fact: Men don't even enjoy
ejaculation. That's right.
Procreation purposes only.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- SOME TIME LATER

Yvonne enters exhausted. She eyes the clock -- 6:00PM.
She wipes her brow when her cell phone RINGS.

YVONNE
Hello?

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, CHAD'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

CHAD
Hello, golden moon. Did you get my
surprise?

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

YVONNE
What surprise?

DOORBELL RINGS. Yvonne opens the door.

Four gorgeous, SHIRTLESS MEN: PATRICK, SEAN, KYLE and JUAN-PABLO -- 20's, different races. They are holding breakfast and spa-like necessities on silver platters. Yvonne stares, mouth agape, enamored by them. She waves.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, DINING ROOM -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne's sweatpants and tank top are on the floor. We can hear her MOANING.

PATRICK

You dirty girl. You like that
don't you? Harder?

Yvonne nods.

JUAN-PABLO

What about this?

Massaging her shoulder, Juan Pablo plants a seductive
kiss on Yvonne's cheek then nibbles on her ear.
Juan-Pablo pouts, deepening his massage into Yvonne's
foot. She throws her head back. Patrick frowns.

PATRICK

It's not always about depth.
There's motion and caring as well.

Sean is giving Yvonne a manicure.

SEAN

They're always butting heads.

Yvonne's smile fades as Kyle's fingers play into her
scalp. Her eyes roll back. Patrick gently takes hold of
her face and opens her mouth, feeding her grapes.

YVONNE

Mmm. So how do you know Chad?

PATRICK

He's their cousin.

Sean and Kyle wink.

JUAN-PABLO

Now spill the beans.

YVONNE

Well, once upon a time there was
this bastard named Ben.

On the clock -- 8:00PM.

Now in a white bathrobe, hair towel wrapped, Yvonne is in
the same position as Patrick, Juan Pablo and Sean cater
to her while Kyle spoon feeds her gummy bears.

SEAN

And after all this, he's
unfaithful to you?

KYLE

He's not a bastard girl. He nasty!

YVONNE

And did Chad tell you she was
supposed to be my maid of honor?

PATRICK

Cinnamon, he told us everything.

JUAN-PABLO

Box color basic bitch.

YVONNE

Then to make matters worse, I was
harassed by a customer who then
forced me to have lunch with him.

KYLE

Oh how you suffer.

YVONNE

Then he asks for a funeral suit.

PATRICK

(hands on hips)
What the hell is a funeral suit?

SEAN

Sounds like a grade A ass bag.

Kyle shakes his head, extending a mimosa with a straw to
Yvonne's mouth. She sips.

YVONNE

Thank you. He thought he could
impress me because he dropped
fifty grand on some Armani suits.

THE FOURSOME immediately cease all movement. Oblivious,
Yvonne tries to sip her mimosa, but Kyle pulls it away.

KYLE

You didn't mention the suits,
Reese's Pieces.

PATRICK

You *did not* mention the suits.

YVONNE

My fiance cheated on me.

KYLE

Girl, let that go. It happens
everyday. You are not special.

Yvonne can't believe it!

PATRICK

Are you attracted to him?

YVONNE

Ben?

Patrick rolls his eyes then motions for Kyle to allow Yvonne a drink. Kyle extends the cup only long enough for Yvonne to take a single sip. He then takes it back, more serious than ever.

KYLE

Wake the hell up.

JUAN-PABLO

What color were the suits?

YVONNE

What does that have to-

Kyle forces the straw back into Yvonne's mouth- She takes a sip then he yanks it away!

KYLE

Answer the question, ginger the spice!

YVONNE

(wary)

They were, nice suits.

(THE FOURSOME stare)

Very nice suits. Solid colors, some pin stripes. No plaids.

THE FOURSOME exhale in ecstasy.

SEAN

Yes, girl. Slay.

PATRICK

So back to the original question. Are you attracted to him?

YVONNE

Charles? He's uh, adequate.

KYLE

That's not what Chaddy said.

YVONNE

Fine, he's gorgeous! You happy?

He's gorgeous-

(with pain)

And he volunteers!

KYLE
 (pets her head)
 Oh, hazelnut... What's his sign?

SEAN
 Oh no.

Juan-Pablo stands, grabs increasingly anxious Kyle and pulls him away while-

KYLE
 Was he born in May?! Does he look like his name should be Paul? *Is his name Paul?!*

Patrick and Sean stare then smile at traumatized Yvonne.

YVONNE
 I'm much better now. Thank you.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Juan Pablo helps distraught Kyle out the front door followed by Sean.

PATRICK
 Good luck with Armani. But in case it doesn't work out.

He hands Yvonne a glittered card with his phone number.

PATRICK (COONT'D)
 And *this* in case it does.

He hands her a grape flavored condom, winks then pops a lollipop in his mouth as he turns on his heels and goes. Yvonne shuts the door then smiles. She takes out her cell phone and dials.

INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

In a cucumber face mask, Chad lights up when he sees Yvonne's call.

CHAD
 Best damn BFF's and associates,
 Chad speaking.

YVONNE (OVER THE PHONE)
 You're amazing and I love you.
 Your friends not so much.

CHAD

And you're a ferocious coconut and
I love you. Bye bye now. Muah.

Chad drops the phone, turns. On his wall -- a fuchsia-lit
EROTIC SHRINE dedicated to: Yvonne, Emma, Halle Berry,
Diane Lane, Hugh Jackman and Rob Schneider in the style
of the "Raising The Flag On Iwo Jima" statue WITH CHAD AS
THE FLAG. Grinning, Chad eyes the shrine then drops his
robe.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, OFFICE ONE -- MORNING

Emma is taking the measurements of MR. WINCHESTER, 80's.
To her annoyance, he is being very flirtatious.

EMMA

Hold still.

Mr. Winchester pinches Emma on the rump. She turns back!

EMMA (CONT'D)

Keep playing, I'm gonna knock your
old ass out.

CHAD (O.S.)

Emma!

EMMA

Stay here.

MR. WINCHESTER

I'd rather *cum* with you.

Emma exits, mumbling through her gritted teeth.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, CHAD'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Emma enters with a frown, but smiles at the sight of
Yvonne. Her smile quickly fades due to Yvonne's angry
expression. Kaley is passing, but halts and enters.

EMMA

What?

YVONNE

What? You gave him my number.

EMMA

He asked, what was I supposed to
do? Besides, it was only your
house number.

YVONNE

It's still my number! Plus, I ran into him yesterday. Fun fact: I'm very annoyed.

EMMA

Why? You should go out with him.

KALEY

Plus, he has the most beautiful smile and his teeth are shiny.

YVONNE

That would be plaque, thank you.

CHAD

And *I* followed him to the garage and his car is worth more than *everything* Kaley has ever owned.

YVONNE

Irrelevant... But out of curiosity- Irrelevant.

EMMA

I'm sorry. He was smiling and kissing my hand I just started saying yes, girl.

MR. WINCHESTER (O.S.)

I can make you say yes, girl!

EMMA

Shut up!

YVONNE

So what you're saying is that when my body is found in a dumpster and my head in a lake, it'll all have been worth it because a stranger slapped some spit on your hand.

EMMA

There was no spit involved.

In only his underwear, socks and shoes, Mr. Winchester is in the doorway smiling.

MR. WINCHESTER

Not yet.

Emma takes a weighty brass sculpture from Chad's desk and starts toward Mr. Winchester who is excited about the interaction.

Only a few feet away, Emma lifts the sculpture when-
Kaley grabs Emma's wrist and takes the sculpture.

KALEY
Let's rethink this.

MR. WINCHESTER
No! Hurt me!

Kaley shuts the door on Mr. Winchester who protests-

MR. WINCHESTER (O.C.)
Hurt me!

YVONNE
...you're all fired.

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE -- LATER

Yvonne is busy at her computer when her cell phone lights up: INCOMING CALL FROM OLIVIA.

Yvonne takes several deep breaths before bravely declining the call. She exhales when another INCOMING CALL FROM OLIVIA.

Yvonne brushes her cell phone from the table. She looks over -- a small framed photo of YOUNG YVONNE and OLIVIA, 20's, tan skinned, attractive. Neither are smiling.

Emma enters when, another INCOMING CALL FROM OLIVIA.

EMMA
Sweetheart, I'm sorry, I-

EMMA
(answers the phone)
Hi, bitch. Bye, bitch.

YVONNE
Emma.

EMMA
You're working on the bridal party, right?
(YVONNE nods)
Good. You can do that at home. No, not a word. You were there for Mike and I during his injury, you gave Kaley a job, and Chad you... Well, you deal with him which is enough. Go home, ma'am.

Tears welled, Yvonne stands as Emma returns her cell phone and sweetly taps her nose. Yvonne nods and goes.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- SHORT TIME LATER

Yvonne has just entered. She removes her shoes and purse then exhales. She starts toward the kitchen when-

A KNOCK -- Yvonne opens the door to Ben.

BEN

Babe.

YVONNE

Benjamin. How's Chelsea?

BEN

I don't know. I haven't spoken to her since I threw her out.

YVONNE

You slept with her then threw her out? Judgement: Impolite.

BEN

It was a mistake. I swear. That girl means nothing to me!

YVONNE

(shutting door)
I'm sorry to hear that because now you'll have to start from scratch.

BEN (O.C.)

I'm not leaving until we talk about this.

Yvonne eyes the open sliding glass door on her balcony.

YVONNE

Alright. Keep talking.

A short while later and Yvonne has changed into jeans and a top. She is climbing over the balcony while...

BEN

Reason number thirteen: Your pancakes dope as hell. Your breakfast in general actually.
Reason fourteen: Discounts.

Yvonne's apartment is on the third floor. She jumps down onto the balcony below her apartment.

She steps over the railing not realizing the front of her shirt has caught onto one of the crown shaped tips of the rail. She lets go of the railing and immediately YELPS!

We see only the back of Yvonne as she slips out of her shirt and hits the ground. She stands and manages to free her shirt and cover herself when she looks up -- an ELDERLY MAN has been staring at her and continues to stare as he casually sips his coffee.

Yvonne begins to feel embarrassed then quickly realizes she doesn't care and dons her top.

YVONNE

See you later.

ELDERLY MAN

Good.

EXT. SIDEWALK -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne passes the end of her building just as Ben exits.

BEN

Yvonne!

Yvonne picks up her pace, passing various shops as Ben hurries after her.

BEN

Baby listen! Let me explain!

YVONNE

Explain? I was there, you dick!

BEN

Let me fix this!

YVONNE

You can't because we're not broken. We're dead.

BEN

E, please!

Ben grabs Yvonne, but she yanks free and turns back when a shop door swings open in Yvonne's face!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne wakes, in bed. Still groggy, she can't make out the faces of the two persons speaking in the doorway.

**JAKE (O.C.)
 (Australian accent)
How is it my fault? They said be
sure to cut off the right leg.
Naturally, I assumed they meant
the *right* leg.

 **LESLIE (O.C.)
It was obviously a joke.

 **JAKE (O.C.)
We're doctors, we shouldn't be
making jokes. I'm gonna go grab a
beer.

Jake exits then Leslie.

Yvonne rubs her eyes and sits up when Chad bursts into
the room, holding an oversized teddy bear and near a
dozen balloons. He sits at Yvonne's feet as Ben enters.

 CHAD
Oh, my sweet butterscotch.

 YVONNE
What happened?

 BEN
You bumped your head.

 CHAD
Thank you black Captain Obvious!

 BEN
I apologize. You jumped over a
balcony like a mad woman and
nearly busted your skull on a
glass door. Better?

Chad BUZZES the nurse's station.

 CHAD
Nurse! Nurse!

Ben rolls his eyes as Leslie enters.

 LESLIE
Good morning, I'm Leslie. How are
you feeling?

 YVONNE
Morning? Again?

LESLIE
 That's right. You bumped your head
 pretty hard. Your doctor said-
 (rolls eyes)
He'd never seen the likes of it.

BEN
 Well, where the hell is he now?

LESLIE
 (uncomfortable...)
 So I went over all of your scans
 and you're perfectly fine.

CHAD
 (moves to door)
 Yes, she is fine. And *he* cheated
 on her. *Ben cheats! He cheats with
 white girls, yahl!*

LESLIE
 Right. So, I'll get your discharge
 paperwork together and have you
 out of here in no time.

YVONNE
 Thank you.

BEN
 I'll drive you-

CHAD
 I'll drive you home.
 (seductively)
 And feed you, give you sponge
 baths.

Yvonne chuckles. Not amused, Ben leaves the room.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- CONTINUOUS

Kaley is on the phone when she spots Charles entering
 with a large bouquet of wildflowers in a vase. She
 blushes and abruptly hangs up on her customer.

CHARLES
 Good morning-

Still blushing, Kaley just walks past him as Emma exits
 Office #2. She smiles seeing the flowers and approaches.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
 Good morning. These are for-

Emma takes the vase and twists her hips as she makes her way back toward Office #2 and stops in the doorway. She opens the card and reads it with a smile.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

OK. Is Yvonne in?

EMMA

(sadly)
She died.

CHARLES

What?!

EMMA

Yep. Surprise flash flood.

CHARLES

Is that right? And was this flood
by chance in her apartment?

Emma nods, smiling as she sniffs the flowers.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

In that case, may I please have
the address of the deceased so I
can pay my respects?

EMMA

She was cremated.

CHARLES

Of course she was. Where might I
find the ashes?

Still smelling the flowers, Emma bats her lashes.

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE BUILDING, HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Charles has just left Yvonne's office. He is waiting for the elevator when the doors open to Chad who is stepping out. They nearly bump into each other, but Chad exaggerates the proximity and flounders about the elevator while Charles just watches stone-faced.

Chad has had enough fun, tosses a lollipop in his mouth.

CHAD

Morning, Mr. Gordon. How the hell
are you?

CHARLES

Actually-

Charles looks about then takes Chad's arm and pulls him close. Chad's mouth widens as his eyes pop in delight.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I was hoping you could give me
Yvonne's address since it's come
to my attention that she's dead.

CHAD
Strangled by an anaconda. And not
the good kind.

CHARLES
I'm sure, but I'd still like to
stop by and see how she's doing.

Chad pulls a pen from his pocket then takes Charles' right hand, writes. He then takes the left hand, writes.

CHAD
The right is her address. The left
is mine. Choose wisely, specimen.

Chad winks then slinks away.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne is making lunch when-

DOORBELL RINGS.

She wipes her hands, moves to the living room and checks the peephole -- Charles! He leans in, enlarging his eye.

CHARLES
Hello?

Yvonne GASPS! She finds her cell phone and dials...

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, CHAD'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

CHAD
(smiles, answers)
Is this the prettiest caramel
coated girl on the planet or is it
you, Yvonne? Joke.

INTERCUT: Yvonne / Chad / Charles

YVONNE
Shut up!

CHAD
But I said I joke.

YVONNE
Who-the-hell-are you people?

CHARLES (O.S.)
I saw your car in the garage.

YVONNE
Go away!

CHARLES
And now I can hear you which is
good because I was bluffing. I
have no idea what kind of car you-

Charles knocks on the door.

YVONNE
Did you give him my address?

CHAD
He asked. Was I supposed to do?

In the hallway with Charles, a MOTHER and YOUNG CHILD
pass him by. YOUNG CHILD waves.

CHARLES
Yvonne, people are staring. It's
making me uncomfortable.

YVONNE
Guess who's no longer my plus one
to Michael Kors' dog walker's
sister's landscaper's birthday
party in Cabo next month?

CHAD
No.

YVONNE
Yes.

CHAD (OVER THE PHONE)
Noooooo!

Charles goes to knock when the door swings open! Yvonne
flashes an insincere smile.

CHARLES
It's about time.

Charles traipses past Yvonne, checking out her apartment.

YVONNE

So you just waltz into my home
uninvited, like a rat?

CHARLES

You have an infestation?

YVONNE

Does it look like I have an
infestation?

CHARLES

No, but it did look like you
opened the door. I bought you
flowers, but they were... Stolen.

YVONNE

Well, I haven't had such a swell
day myself. So just tell me what
you want so you can go. But please
don't say that you want to be my
friend because I have plenty of
friends. I clearly don't *work* with
any of them.

CHARLES

I came to apologize.

YVONNE

Not necessary, we simply got off
on the wrong foot. That said, get
lost.

Yvonne leaves the room.

Charles makes his way to the kitchen. He takes the pocket
calendar he finds there and flips through while...

CHARLES

Your fiance cheats on you, calling
off your engagement, and here
comes some insensitive ass hat
causing an itch you can't scratch.

Yvonne re-enters in different clothing when she halts,
appalled at the sight of Charles with her calendar!

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Starting the third Wednesday of
the month? Good to know. Fun fact:
Men really don't mind the gushing-

Yvonne snatches it away then smacks him over the head
while he laughs-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Suzanne J. Hall.

YVONNE

Get out!

Charles touches her chin then opens the refrigerator.

CHARLES

Do you have bacon?

YVONNE

Of course I have bacon, but it's
not for you. Shoo.

Yvonne pulls him away from the fridge only to see he is
holding a carton of eggs and a bottle of orange juice.

CHARLES

Great. Find it would you?

Charles sets the eggs and juice on the counter.

Infuriated, Yvonne finds the bacon and throws it at
Charles' head who manages to catch it.

CHARLES

My parents own a restaurant back
in Melbourne so I know a thing or
two about the kitchen.

YVONNE

So you're Australian?

(CHARLES nods)

Then why don't you have an
Australian accent?

CHARLES

...that's none of your business.

(YVONNE chuckles)

What about your parents?

Yvonne is taken off guard, but spared from answering when-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Where's your coffee? Never mind,
got. Ooh, Ancora d'Oro. Good girl.

Yvonne rolls her eyes, but is clearly proud of herself as
Charles begins to grind the beans.

CHARLES

So we have eggs, bacon, juice,
coffee. I can make toast-

YVONNE

It's not like I don't have pancake mix, fresh, homemade blueberry compote, cream cheese icing and sliced almonds for texture for the best meal of the day. Low life.

Yvonne quickly sits, eyeing Charles expectantly. He smirks and finds the pancake mix...

Yvonne watches Charles flip a pathetic looking pancake.

YVONNE

I thought you came from a line of restaurateurs.

CHARLES

It's not as easy as it looks. Listen, how about I make you a specialty pancake? Like, um. Like Mickey Mouse.

(YVONNE stares)

I can do Anakin. I can do anything in the Star Wars universe.

YVONNE

Darth Maul.

CHARLES

But he's evil. I'll do Padme.

Yvonne smiles and moves back to the table, sits.

Charles serves the eggs, bacon, coffee, and juice. He then serves Yvonne an oddly shaped pancake and, startling her, dumps the blueberry compote on top with a chunk of the cream cheese icing before sprinkling an unholy amount of sliced almonds. Out of breath, Charles wipes his brow.

Yvonne eyes him -- he really did his best. She manages a smile as Charles sits.

YVONNE

It's lovely, thank you.

CHARLES

How'd you get into suit selling?

YVONNE

Correction. I am a professional personal stylist. People who have zero fashion sense, such as yourself, come to me for my personal and correct opinion.

CHARLES

Beauty, great taste and humble.

YVONNE

Alright, Princess Peach. What about you? What do you do?

CHARLES

By night, grave robbing. A little low level herbal distribution.

YVONNE

Charlatan. I'm in so far.

CHARLES

But by day I mostly invest other people's money. They come to me with a few million dollars and I provide them with my personal and correct brokerage opinion. I also dabble a bit in accounting.

YVONNE

How do you dabble in accounting?

CHARLES

You let me worry about that, ma'am. I also volunteer and am quite charitable so, I'm kind of the ideal romantic opposite.

(YVONNE smiles)

But enough about me. Tell me about the two people responsible for your breathtaking personality.

YVONNE

...my mother is married to a politician. She and I aren't very close. And my father and I aren't close at all. Strangely, you've already met the most important people in my life.

CHARLES

I see... Well, it may relieve you to know that I no longer need that funeral suit.

YVONNE

You're not going?

CHARLES

I would, if there was funeral to go to.

(MORE)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

My brother Jake lives with our grandmother and every few years he does this bit where he calls the family saying she died so we'll send him gas cards and food.

YVONNE

Oh my god. But I thought you said he was a doctor.

CHARLES

He was-

INT. HOSPITAL, OFFICE [FLASHBACK]

Jake, his back to us, is arguing with his SUPERIOR.

JAKE

Really? You're going to fire me because I cut off the wrong leg? Like he doesn't have another one?!

SUPERIOR

That's the one we needed to cut off in the first place!

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

CHARLES

Recently let go... More about you. Why aren't you close with your dad, if you don't mind me asking?

YVONNE

...we don't know who he is.

CHARLES

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have-

Yvonne's cell phone RINGS. INCOMING CALL FROM: MY LOVE. Yvonne and Charles eye it.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -- CONTINUOUS

WORKERS are busy with bulldozers, cranes, etc. Ben, phone to ear, a collared shirt, the boss, makes for a trailer.

INT. CONSTRUCTION SITE, BEN'S TRAILER -- CONTINUOUS

Ben enters.

YVONNE'S VOICEMAIL
 You've reached Yvonne. Please
 leave your name and number and I
 will return your call shortly.

BEEP.

BEN
 I need to see you, I'm losing my
 mind. I love you.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

YVONNE
 Thank you for breakfast.

CHARLES
 You didn't finish-

YVONNE
 I spoke with Emma, your last suit
 will be ready this afternoon.

CHARLES
 At least let me help-

YVONNE
 I'm not a rebound person, Charles?
 I don't rebound with men and I
 don't let them rebound with me.
 But you're a nice guy, so good
 luck.

CHARLES
 OK... Well, this was nice.
 (makes for door)
 You know, you shouldn't cry over
 spilled milk. I know it's cheesy,
 but it applies so. Good luck to
 you too.

Charles shows himself out.

Yvonne spots a photo of herself and Ben. She approaches
 then knocks it over! Her cell phone RINGS -- INCOMING
 CALL FROM OLIVIA. Yvonne rolls her eyes, answering.

YVONNE
 Hello mother.

OLIVIA (OVER THE PHONE)
 Don't answer the phone like that.
 Like some little hood rat.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME, BOUDOIR -- CONTINUOUS

Luxurious, spacious. Well off.

Olivia, late 40's, dark hair, olive skin, attractive. Female STAFF WORKERS are applying Olivia's makeup, doing her hair and giving her a manicure while another holds the phone to her ear.

INTERCUT: YVONNE / OLIVIA

OLIVIA

What's going on? Ben is blowing up my phone asking if I've heard from you. *Your engagement is off?*

YVONNE

Nice to hear your voice. I'm fine by the way. Not devastated or heartbroken at all.

OLIVIA

Don't get cute with me. Now tell me what the hell is going on. Ben is young, handsome and well off.

Olivia shoos the Staff Workers away as she grabs the phone herself. She points at one of them.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I saw you roll your eyes, Camilla. Now what did you do?

YVONNE

What did I do?

OLIVIA

Ben said that you broke things off and won't explain why, so yes, what did you do? Communication has never been your strength-

YVONNE

Mother-

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Ben is successful and wants you.

YVONNE

Mother! Did he tell you he cheated on me?

OLIVIA

It came up.

Yvonne lowers the phone as she cries silently. Her cell phone vibrates. A TEXT FROM CHAD: "BEACH?"

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Furthermore, you would be able to
quit that little consignment shop
you run and-

Yvonne hangs up.

OLIVIA
E? E?!

Olivia tosses her cell phone. She eyes her manicure, displeased.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Camilla get over here!

EXT. BEACH -- AFTERNOON, LATER

DOZENS relax and frolic in the water as Yvonne, Chad and Kaley find a spot of their own and settle in.

Kaley sympathetically eyes Yvonne and cuddles her.

KALEY
It'll be OK. You deserve better.

YVONNE
You just wanted him for yourself.

KALEY
He's hot.

YVONNE
How are we even friends?

Chad lights up as he waves to someone in the distance.

YVONNE
Oh my god.

Olivia, in her one piece, shawl, oversized beach hat and high heels, approaches. Several men are eyeing her.

OLIVIA
Put your damn eyes back in your
head.

KALEY
Did you invite her mom?

CHAD
Yoohoo! Over here, girl!

OLIVIA
I called you half a dozen times.

YVONNE
Just say six like a normal person.
It's easier.

Olivia rolls her eyes as Chad hurries over and curtsseys.

CHAD
Mrs. Hart.

OLIVIA
Boy, move. And you. You see me
standing here.

Intimidated, Kaley scoots over as Olivia takes her place
and sprawls out, still holding tight onto her hat.

YVONNE
I assume Chad called you.

OLIVIA
No, Ben saw it on one of *this*
one's posts somewhere.

KALEY
(smiles, flattered)
He's on my Insta?

OLIVIA
And where's the damn bug spray?
I'm talking to you, Katelyn?

Kaley can't form words, looking to Yvonne for help.

YVONNE
Her name is Kaley.

OLIVIA
Whatever, I need a drink.

YVONNE
Of course you do.

Yvonne stands and follows Olivia. Kaley smiles at her
cell phone while Chad winks and blows kisses at a group
of passing women.

KALEY
Ben follows me. Chad, he-

CHAD
Shut up, Katelyn!

Further up the beach, Charles is throwing a football back and forth with ANDRE, 30's, African American, attractive.

Charles readies his throw, but halts when he spots Yvonne and Olivia approaching a TIKI HUT.

CHARLES
Hey, hey! Come here. That's her.

ANDRE
Where? With the hat? She fine man.

CHARLES
No the other-
(eyes Olivia)
Damn. I mean, no. The other one.

ANDRE
Mm, I like her too. And she's a
suit seller?

CHARLES
(offended)
Professional personal stylist.

EXT. BEACH, TIKI HUT -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne sits while Olivia takes a napkin and wipes down her already dry seat. Yvonne eyes her.

OLIVIA
What now?

YVONNE
You're at the beach where people
piss in the ocean and you're
wiping down a dry chair?

OLIVA
Girl, hush. You. Excuse me.

BARTENDER
Yes, ma'am.

OLIVIA
Two appletini cocktails.

YVONNE
One appletini, and it's for her.

OLIVIA

What, you don't like appletinis?

YVONNE

I don't drink. You always do this.

OLIVIA

Then what should I order for you?

YVONNE

I don't need you to order for me-

OLIVIA

Lemonade for her. Now. I didn't come here to argue. Ben has been calling me every five minutes in tears. He's sorry. So whatever happened, get over it. Do you think I live as comfortably as I do without looking the other way? Larry has nine children with six women, but I'm the one with the ring and property in my name.

YVONNE

We're very different people.

OLIVIA

It doesn't matter. At some point we're all forced to be practical.

YVONNE

And that's what you want for me? To be practical?

OLIVIA

I want you to open those pretty brown eyes I gave you. No man is faithful and whoever agrees with the reverse is selling something you don't want to buy. Love is not for everyone.

YVONNE

Emma and Mike are happy and have been for over ten years.

OLIVIA

Emma is a bitch that Mike puts up with because of his bum ass leg. Ben wants you, he has money-

YVONNE

I have money!

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
And he's willing to tear up the
prenup which is the best damn deal
your whiney ass is ever going to
get. Take it.

Yvonne turns, hiding the tear she wipes away. Bartender
has been waiting. He presents her lemonade.

YVONNE
Thank you. You remember the word
thank you, don't you mother?

OLIVIA
(snapping fingers)
Hey, hey! Where's *my* damn drink?

BARTENDER
Strangely, lemonade's all we got.
(different customer)
What can I get you? I can make
anything.

OLIVIA
Damn fool. Do you enjoy your
little ten dollars an hour?

YVONNE
That's enough.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
My dogs live better than everyone
on this damn beach.

Charles and Andre eye Yvonne and Olivia in the distance.

ANDRE
Are you going over there? ...you
said you made her breakfast.

CHARLES
Yeah, then she kicked me out.

ANDRE
If you don't talk to her, I will.

CHARLES
No, wait.

ANDRE
I'm doing it for you, man.

YVONNE
Look, just go home.

OLIVIA

Gladly. And you and Ben will stop in for brunch on Saturday where we'll have appletinis that aren't made with two dollar vodka.

YVONNE

(glaring)
I don't drink.

Andre nears Yvonne and Olivia. Charles panics and locks his eyes on Andre's head and launches the football!

A CHILD'S beach ball rolls in front of Andre who smiles, kneeling.

ANDRE

Here you go, buddy.

YVONNE

Because I deserve better than to be with someone who is constantly hurting me!

Yvonne turns-

The football hits Yvonne in the face! She pops off her feet and falls back on the sand!

OLIVIA

Oh my god!

Olivia drops to her knees and holds Yvonne as she regains consciousness.

OLIVIA

Sweetie? *Who hit my baby?!*

Andre stands, scratching his head as he makes his escape.

CHARLES

Oh my god, I'm so sorry.

OLIVIA

Get some damn ice!

Charles hurries to the tiki hut where Bartender is already holding a bag of ice.

OLIVIA

E, are you OK?

YVONNE

What happened?

OLIVIA
This jackass hit you in the face
with a football. Nice job jackass.

CHARLES
It was an accident, I swear.

Olivia observes the care Charles puts into taking Yvonne into his arms and holding the ice to her face.

OLIVIA
You know her.

CHARLES
I'm Charles.

OLIVIA
Give me my daughter, Charles.

Charles hands Yvonne off to Olivia who helps her stand.

CHARLES
Charles? Why did you do that?

CHARLES
I wasn't aiming for you.

Andre runs over, putting a hand on Charles' shoulder.

ANDRE
Whew! I saw the whole thing. You
OK, ma'am?

Charles coldly eyes Andre as Chad and Kaley approach.

CHAD
Aww, my tan oyster.

KALEY
Yvonne, are you-

Kaley spots Andre! She blushes and extends a hand.

KALEY (CONT'D)
I'm Kaley. Me. I am. I'm Kaley.

Andre looks Kaley up and down, smiles.

ANDRE
Andre.

Kaley releases A RIDICULOUS LAUGH!

Charles brings Yvonne close, holding the ice to her face.

OLIVIA

Well, you seem to be all taken care of. E, I expect to see you this weekend. Charles.

Olivia gives an insincere smirks and walks away. She looks back, placing her cell phone to her ear.

KALEY

So what do you do? Fireman, stripper?

ANDRE

(blushes, flexes)
I don't know. I mean.

CHAD

This is hella uncomfortable.

Chad dons glittery shades and moseys off.

CHARLES

Again, I'm really sorry.

KALEY

Yeah, shut up. Let's grab a bite.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Waitress is pouring a drink for a customer when Yvonne, Charles, Kaley and Andre enter and sit. Waitress is appalled by Yvonne's bruised face. She hurries over.

WAITRESS

What did you do to her? I'm calling the police.

YVONNE

No need, just ice please.

CHARLES

Sweat tea.

ANDRE

Same-

KALEY

Same!

Waitress cuts Charles a look then walks on.

KALEY

So how do you two know each other?

ANDRE

We've been thick as thieves since college. We roomed together, moved here then started a small business that is now booming.

Waitress, with her MANAGER, male, husky, tough, returns with their drinks. Waitress points at Charles.

WAITRESS

This one.

Yvonne, Charles, Kaley and Andre are confused.

CHARLES

Is this about the mushrooms?

MANAGER

No, Lannister. It's about the goat cheese and *her* eye. What'd you do?

ANDRE

(halts drinking)

Mm, he hit her in the face with a football.

Manager takes Charles by the collar!

YVONNE

It was an accident. Everything's OK, everyone's fine. No one else needs to get hurt.

MANAGER

I'm watching you... Still want the mushrooms on the side?

Charles nods. Manager roughly releases him then smiles broadly at Yvonne.

MANAGER

And you, hun?

YVONNE

A cheese for the table, thanks.

MANAGER

You got it.

Manager frowns at Charles then he and Waitress walk away.

ANDRE

So how did you two meet?

KALEY

I worked at Blockbuster back when that was a thing. She was renting a Michael Fassbender film. I won't say which one, but it's called *Shame*. Full frontal. And she asked me, quote, *what the hell are you wearing*, unquote. Then she said she'd fix me and offered me a job. Best friend.

YVONNE

(smiling at Charles)
She was literally wearing a shower curtain for a skirt.

ANDRE

I own two shower curtains.

Yvonne and Charles lose their smiles. Yvonne starts to speak, but Andre rolls his eyes. Waitress arrives with the pizza and Charles' jarred mushrooms.

WAITRESS

If you guys need anything-
(to Yvonne)
Anything. You let me know.

CHARLES

Thank you-
(WAITRESS walks away)
You turned the people against me.

YVONNE

You didn't need my help with that.

CHARLES

Serious now. I just want to take you out somewhere. This weekend?

YVONNE

My face is going to bruise.

CHARLES

You're still beautiful. Not now obviously. I'm kidding. Also nervous.

YVONNE

...maybe.

ANDRE (O.C.)

Pass the mushrooms man, damn.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- MORNING, DAYS LATER

Kaley is by the door, excited as she extends a cup of coffee when Yvonne enters already drinking a coffee.

YVONNE
(chuckling)
Be serious.

KALEY
How can you be so militant about
coffee, but roll over like a dog
when your mother shows up?

Yvonne stares. She finds Chad's spray bottle and sprays Kaley in the face until she hurries away frowning.

Yvonne sets the spray bottle aside and removes her cell phone -- A RECENT TEXT FROM OLIVIA: CHANGED MY MIND. HIGH TEA ON SUNDAY. GLOVES AND HAT LIKE A LADY PLEASE.

Yvonne begins to respond then hesitates. She backs out of the text and opens a NEW MESSAGE... TO CHARLES: CHANGE OF PLANS. I'M FREE THIS WEEKEND.

Yvonne begins to smiles when-

A TEXT FROM CHARLES: SORRY, CHANGE OF PLANS FOR ME TOO.

A TEXT FROM CHARLES: GOT A HOT DATE WITH A PROFESSIONAL PERSONAL STYLIST. :)

Yvonne smiles and returns to her message with Olivia.
RESPONDS: I'D RATHER NOT. ;)

EMMA (O.C.)
I said turn your old ass around!

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, OFFICE TWO -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne appears in the doorway to find Mr. Winchester, pants only, with his hands behind his head thrusting his pelvis back and forth toward Emma.

MR. WINCHESTER
Yeah, enjoy that show.
(spots Yvonne)
Chocolate only, no caramels!

YVONNE
Emma, why don't you go help Kaley
with that, thing.

Emma drops the blazer she is holding and exits. Yvonne then methodically approaches Mr. Winchester, picking up his clothing while...

YVONNE

Mr. Winchester, you're a very nice man and Emma is a beautiful and kind and smart and much, much, much, much younger woman. And what you're not understanding is that there's a big difference between flirtation and sexual harassment-

Yvonne uncovers his brown and yellow stained boxers!

Mr. Winchester smiles, thrusting his pelvis again. Yvonne eyes him coldly.

YVONNE

Get out.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Kaley is bent over the coffee machine, confused as she eyes it when Yvonne enters in a hurry holding a plastic bag as far away from her body as she can.

YVONNE

Garbage bag, garbage bag.

Kaley grabs a garbage bag from the pantry as Yvonne drops Mr. Winchester's boxers into the mini trash can.

KALEY

I'll change the trash-

Yvonne snatches the garbage bag from Kaley then lifts the mini trash can, placing *it* in the garbage bag. Kaley watches as Yvonne then rigorously washes her hands.

All done, Yvonne smiles and removes four hundred dollars from her pocket then takes both of Kaley's wary hands.

KALEY

Are you-

YVONNE

(smiling, softly)

Shh. I want you to have this... Because the office needs a new trash can. And I *desperately* need you... To buy a Kuerig. Use the rest to treat Andre to dinner.

Yvonne gently brushes Kaley's cheek and exits. Kaley remains, frozen from relief and confusion.

INT. YVONNE'S BUSINESS, RECEPTION -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne has just left the kitchen. She smiles at a FEMALE CUSTOMER, *uniquely* dressed, who is leaving Chad's office with several boxes.

EMMA

See? Chad can please anyone.

CHAD

(buttons shirt)

She was pleased alright.

Yvonne frowns as Female Customer blushes and leaves.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I'm only kidding. I unbuttoned it to mess with you.

Yvonne smiles then checks her cell phone. Chad looks to Emma, smirking as he shakes his head "no". Emma smirks.

EMMA

Deep in thought?

YVONNE

My mother invited Ben and I to high tea this weekend.

EMMA

No ma'am. Every time you let her talk you into going, you and that damn boy get back together-

Yvonne gently brushes Emma's cheek, eyeing her like a sweet child.

YVONNE

Oh, Emma. I'm not going. Kaley.

(Kaley nears)

Ladies and Chad, I... Have a date.

KALEY

With Charles?

Yvonne smiles as they all huddle around and embrace her.

KALEY (CONT'D)

Yvonne, that's great. He's not as hot as Ben, but you tried.

INT. CHARLES' APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- AFTERNOON

DOORBELL RINGS.

Casually dressed, Charles approaches brushing his teeth. He opens the door to smiling and very formally dressed Yvonne whose smile fades at the sight of him.

CHARLES
(spewing toothpaste)
Wow, you look great.

Charles brushes throughout, spewing toothpaste here and there that Yvonne calmly removes, hiding her rage...

YVONNE
What are you wearing?
(CHARLES shrugs)
You just bought eighteen suits
from me. Why aren't you wearing a
suit?

CHARLES
I didn't want to wear a suit.

YVONNE
Then why did you tell me to wear a
formal dress?

CHARLES
I don't know, I thought you'd look
nice... You look OK.

A staring match. Several moments, and Charles takes a mug from his mantle, spits then wipes his mouth on his arm.

CHARLES
OK, let's go.

INT. ARCADE -- LATER

Charles is having a blast playing a shooting game while Yvonne watches with a condescending gaze when a CHILD races by Yvonne and TRIPS!

Yvonne releases a brief laugh when a PARENT cuts her a look. Yvonne clears her throat and finds Charles.

CHARLES
There you are.

Charles tries maneuvering Yvonne in front of the game, but she resists.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I have plenty of quarters.

YVONNE

That is not the issue here. Sir. I didn't put on this twelve hundred dollar Jovani masterpiece or these seven hundred dollar Louboutins for these crusty, bugger-nosed brats. *This* is not going well.

CHARLES

So what, you'd rather paint to classical music with a group of strangers while sipping champagne?

Yvonne lights up.

INT. ART CLASS -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Sitting amongst other COUPLES, all painting a bouquet of red roses, Yvonne grins mischievously at Charles who is bored out of his mind. He is simply slapping paint at this point. He looks over as Yvonne sips champagne. *She truly is relaxed.* He smiles.

CHARLES

Do you have siblings?

YVONNE

No, thank God. I would never wish my mother on another human soul.

(the two LAUGH)

So you dabble in Accounting?

CHARLES

I yabble dabble do- That joke should've stayed in my head.

YVONNE

Agreed. So why accounting, the most boring of all professions?

CHARLES

(smiles)

Growing up, we had a comfortable life. A dog, a pool, we'd host barbecues. I was sixteen, life was great. Then one day, dad came home and said we were moving, wouldn't even tell my mother why. Jake's theory was-

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Charles (16) leans in the doorway, staring at pimple-faced Jake who is "having an epiphany".

JAKE

*What if dad is just moonlighting
as a cook... And is really an
astronaut?*

INT. ART CLASS -- CONTINUOUS

YVONNE

How did he get through med school?

CHARLES

A mystery to this day. But I knew something was wrong. So I did some digging, found that dad's partner was stealing from the restaurant and screwing the books. So much so that it was either our home or the restaurant. And cooking was dad's life, the only way he knew to take care of us. So his partner skipped town and we packed up.

YVONNE

So that's why you... I'm sorry.

CHARLES

I was always good with numbers so I managed dad's books before leaving for college.

YVONNE

And it stuck. So what you're saying is that you're not a narcissistic ass hat, you're just a nerdy daddy's boy with a nice face?

CHARLES

(smiling)
You get it.

Yvonne smiles and continues with her painting.

YVONNE

Well that's sweet, but you're not the only pretty face in town. I need substance, Charles. Honesty, meaningful conversation, so on.

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

And I'll admit that at times I am
a handful, but I'm not Liz Taylor
OK, this isn't *Taming of the Shrew*-

As Yvonne turns to face Charles, he, oblivious to his arm movement, flips his plate of red paint which SPLATTERS all over Yvonne! The room falls silent.

Charles' hands brush from Yvonne's nose out to her cheeks, revealing her red stained face. The excess paint on her cheeks drip down on her already ruined dress.

Charles stares, a glimmer in his eyes while speechless.

EXT. PIZZA PARLOR -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Yvonne, covered in dried red paint, walks slightly ahead of Charles on the sidewalk.

YVONNE

Takes me to a stupid arcade, ruins
my brand new dress.

Charles, covers his face, embarrassed.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -- SHORT WHILE LATER

Waitress is with a CUSTOMER when she spots Yvonne and Charles just outside -- Yvonne is now facing Charles, ARGUING WITH HIM. She smacks both her hands across her own face, dramatically mimicking how Charles smeared the paint -- Waitress excuses herself.

INTERCUT: INT. WITH WAITRESS / EXT. WITH CHARLES & YVONNE

CHARLES

I didn't mean to ruin your night
or gorgeous dress. I like you and
just wanted you to forget about
your ex and loosen up and have
fun. If there was a bowl of fun-

Manager exits the pizza parlor just in time to hear *only*:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I would just push you right in!

MANAGER

Alright, pal.

Manager punches Charles!

Waitress pumps her fist, watching the beat down.

YVONNE

Hey! Hey! Thank you for whatever this is, but you can stop now. Thank you. Please stop.

MANAGER

You call me anytime, sweetheart. Hear that punk?! I'm watching over her now. *Dirty, good for nothing-*

Manager has disappeared back inside the parlor. Yvonne looks inside -- Waitress nods firmly.

Yvonne can't help but smile. She eyes Charles.

CHARLES

A little help?

YVONNE

You just had your ass handed to you by an overweight middle-aged man. Don't even look at me... But overall, not too bad a time.

Yvonne reaches out, smirks. Charles smiles and accepts.

APPROPRIATE SONG OVER MONTAGE OF...

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Yvonne and Charles are painting on small canvases sipping wine. She looks over- Charles quickly forces a smile.

Charles takes another paint brush and begins drumming it with the other. Yvonne cuts Charles a look. He smiles then ceases, accidentally releasing one of the brushes into the air which flies back and chips a piece of her chandelier. Charles puts a hand to his mouth, uncertain what to expect from Yvonne.

Struggling to remain composed, Yvonne simply stares when the chandelier snaps and CRASHES DOWN on the floor.

Wide-eyed, Charles simply pretends not to notice as he takes and kisses both Yvonne's hands as she glares.

INT. FINE DINING RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Yvonne and Charles laugh over their candlelit dinner when Yvonne spots a FEMALE FRIEND who approaches.

While she and Yvonne chat, Charles takes a lock of Yvonne's hair and sniffs. Smiling, he releases the lock which brushes through the candle flame SETTING YVONNE'S HAIR ON FIRE!

Yvonne and Female Friend scream hysterically!

Charles stands and launches his champagne at Yvonne, WORSENING THE FLAME!

Charles' mouth widens and we are-

INT. SALON -- CONTINUOUS

Ashamed, Charles stands behind HAIRDRESSER as she pulls out a pair of scissors.

In the chair, drenched, makeup ruined, Yvonne scowls as Hairdresser lops her hair into a bob.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE -- AFTERNOON

Yvonne and Charles are having a picnic when a COUPLE'S LARGE DOG runs over and jumps on Yvonne, licking her.

Yvonne sweetly embraces the dog as Charles and the couple smile until Yvonne begins to scratch herself, trying to put distance between herself and the dog. Charles moves closer to assist her -- Yvonne is now covered in hives, her eyes swollen shut!

INT. DRUG STORE, PHARMACY COUNTER -- CONTINUOUS

Charles hurries in, Yvonne over his shoulder. He plops her down on the counter. PHARMACIST snaps his fingers and disappears for a few moments.

Concerned, Charles rubs his forehead and turns only to find Waitress eyeing the scene in horror. Charles STARTS when Waitress sprays Charles with mace!

Eyes still swollen, the situation is clear enough that Yvonne points, laughing as Charles grabs his eyes, stumbling about in agony.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -- CONTINUOUS

Appalled at the sight of Yvonne and Charles as they enter, Manager yanks a pizza peel from the flaming hot oven and aggressively approaches!

Charles, rubbing his eyes, doesn't see Manager coming who pushes the edge of the hot pizza peel against Charles' butt and back while simultaneously smacking him about!

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Yvonne, in a tank top and boy shorts, eyes her curly bob in the mirror. She smiles and gently shakes it.

She moves to her closet and opens a large chest -- it is full of ornate hats, lace gloves, oriental fans and shawls. A moment, Yvonne grabs a notepad and writes. She tears the note off and sticks it on the chest: DONATION. She then climbs into bed next to already sleeping Charles who instinctively puts an arm around her.

EXT. PARK -- AFTERNOON

Another of Yvonne's charity events. She and Charles are working a table together -- Yvonne is positioning one of the hats from her chest on a sweet ELDERLY WOMAN. Charles steals a glimpse of smiling Yvonne, smiling himself when-

Suzanne J. Hall injects her body between Yvonne and Charles to start an inaudible conversation with an ATTENDEE who becomes horrified, stepping away scarred.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN -- MORNING

Yvonne halts to watch shirtless Charles glance back and forth from his phone to the stove -- he is talking himself through a tutorial when he spots her, immediately flipping the phone over. He pulls her in for a quick kiss then escorts her to the table and pulls out her chair.

A moment, a spectacular Darth Maul pancake hits Yvonne's plate followed by neatly placed blueberry compote, cream cheese icing and sliced almonds. In awe, Yvonne eyes Charles who sits very proud of himself. Yvonne can't shake her smile even as she lowers her gaze.

Charles watches Yvonne, his eyes stating the obvious. He takes one of her hands and kisses it then digs in.

MONTAGE ENDS AND SONG FADES...

INT. YVONNE'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Yvonne and Charles enter, lip-locked and laughing when her DESK PHONE RINGS. Yvonne lets it go to voicemail.

CHARLES

Your mom?

YVONNE

Four months and she still thinks there's a chance for me and Ben.

CHARLES

I'm sorry, you know I am. But your mother's actually not the problem.

(YVONNE starts-)

Yvonne, I'm not blind. When your phone lights up and you flip it over, I know it's him.

YVONNE

OK. Yes. He started calling again, but before you get upset, I wasn't being secretive, I just didn't want to bother you with it.

CHARLES

If my ex was still calling me, I'd bother you with it... But you can make it up to me.

YVONNE

How?

CHARLES

By taking me to that dinner at your mother's tonight that you don't think I know about.

YVONNE

No. No. Any meal with my mother is the worst meal I've ever had.

CHARLES

Poppycrack. It can't be that bad.

YVONNE

You met her for two minutes. I grew up with her and darling, she is a manipulative siren. How else does a single mother *from Detroit* snag a millionaire politician?

CHARLES

Sweetheart, I hear you. But I literally have an evil twin.

YVONNE

My earliest memory of my mother is sitting outside a motel room while she was busy trying to get knocked up by whatever rich idiot she'd been out with that night. My most recent memory of my mother is her trying to talk me into marrying a serial cheater whose mother still does his laundry. I didn't tell you about the dinner because we're not going. Richard from downstairs said he had dress shirts and slacks to donate for my event next weekend. Did you pick them up?

CHARLES

Yes and they're at the cleaners. We are going because she needs to know me. So I'll wear a tuxedo and you'll wear something, slinky.

YVONNE

Charles. It's not-

(CHARLES kisses her)

A good-

(CHARLES kisses her)

Idea. Did you pick up the flyers from the printers?

CHARLES

Yes, and Andre and Kaley put them up all over town.

YVONNE

What about the children's Halloween costumes from that Double E's place?

CHARLES

I am clumsy, I admit that. But I listen when you speak. Everything you asked me to do, I did. You don't have to keep asking.

YVONNE

I sorry. I've just always done this alone.

CHARLES

...I'll be at dinner tonight. And with you this weekend. And next next month and the next month and so on.

(MORE)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(kisses her)

I have to go.

Charles breaks away and exits. Yvonne plops down in her chair and blushes. Emma enters.

EMMA

Alright, I'm out to pick up Mike.

YVONNE

Yes, darling. Whatever you need.

EMMA

You're happy. And not that *I have a ring, am going to be married before I'm thirty*, fake nonsense you girls hide behind these days.

YVONNE

Charles is wonderful. He shows up when he says he will, he doesn't cancel our plans to go spend time with his mother or to *crack open a cold one with the boys*. He speaks to me with respect, treats me with respect, he values what I bring to the table. I'm in lo-

Yvonne quickly covers her mouth, blushing. Emma smiles.

EMMA

And Charles, is he in lo-?

YVONNE

I don't know if he's in lo-.

EMMA

Hmm. You should find out if he's in lo-.

YVONNE

(still blushing)

Whatever.

EMMA

Cutie. Listen, I talked to Mike. If you do decide to go tonight, he and I will both be there for you and Charles. I have to go.

YVONNE

Are you sure?

(EMMA nods)

You're amazing.

Emma winks and goes.

Yvonne leans back and spins in her chair when Chad enters. He heads straight for her closet and whips through the clothes on hangars. Yvonne stands just as Chad tosses a rich purple, silk, formal dress to her.

CHAD

Slinky!

Yvonne is left in amused disbelief as Chad exits.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- THAT NIGHT

Yvonne, in the purple silk dress, opens the door to Charles, dressed in a tuxedo as promised. Yvonne laughs.

YVONNE

You look wonderful.

CHARLES

And you look like a beautiful purple thing.

(YVONNE chuckles)

I have something for you.

Charles removes the diamond bracelet around Yvonne's wrist, tosses it and replaces it with a corsage.

YVONNE

That's a family heirloom... At least it will be. That set me back fourteen-hundred dollars-

CHARLES

(eyeing the corsage)

Oh, yes. Very nice. OK. What did you get me?

Yvonne smiles, kisses him then grabs her clutch.

EXT. OLIVIA'S HOME, FRONT STEPS -- SHORT WHILE LATER

A massive, castle-like mansion and estate with a curved driveway holding several, hundred thousand dollar cars. Yvonne takes deep breaths as she and Charles approach.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME, DINING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne and Charles enter, then immediately halt. Yvonne turns, but Charles gently holds her in place, smiling.

At the table: Olivia, Emma with arms crossed, MIKE (late 40's, African American, handsome) and **Ben**.

EMMA
I was just calling you.

BEN
You look incredible.

OLIVIA
They *look* overdressed.

CHARLES
No, that can't be right.
(shakes Mike's hand)
Charles, nice to meet you.

MIKE
Likewise. With the kind of guys
Yvonne has dated, when she said
you were good to her I didn't
think you actually existed.

BEN
Mike, good to see you.

MIKE
Agree to disagree.

YVONNE
Mother, may I speak with you-

OLIVIA
Seamus, champagne.

CHARLES
Strange sounding sentence.

SEAMUS, 50's, staff worker, enters and pours their champagne, standing noticeably close to Olivia as he pours hers. Another MALE STAFF WORKER enters with a cart holding everyone's meal and serves.

OLIVIA
Thank you, Seamus. Now. What do
you need to speak with me about?

YVONNE
It's a private matter.

OLIVIA
The most important people in your
life are all in this room. Say
what you need to say.

EMMA

You need to watch your tone.

OLIVIA

No one tells me what I need to do in my own home.

EMMA

Girl, shut up.

YVONNE

Why is he here?

BEN

Because I love you and want to fight for what we have.

CHARLES

She dumped you months ago. What can you possibly think you have?

YVONNE

Unlike you Ben, I can only pursue one relationship at a time.

BEN

It was wrong of me, but it doesn't change how I feel. I love you.

CHARLES

If you love her so much then stop making her uncomfortable. Or better yet, just leave.

BEN

I don't run away from problems.

EMMA

No, you just create them.

OLIVIA

I'm getting tired of you.

EMMA

(eyeing Seamus)
That's not all you're getting.

SEAMUS

Champagne?

Olivia glares at Emma.

MIKE

So, Charles what do you do?

CHARLES
Finance. Investment-

BEN
My company just closed on a three-
hundred million dollar contract
last week.

OLIVIA
Now this is worth listening to-

YVONNE
Charles was speaking.

CHARLES
...I invest other people's money.
So Ben, if you need any advice.

BEN
E, can I speak with you?

CHARLES
You're out of your mind.

YVONNE
Today of all days, mother, really?

OLIVIA
Yes, today of all days because I
know how the story ends.

EMMA
And how does it end?

OLIVIA
With my baby changing her last
name to Brooks. Do you understand,
Charles Gordon?

CHARLES
I understand English and you were
speaking English words. So yes.

BEN
No need to be disrespectful.

Yvonne scoffs a laugh.

MIKE
Where's Larry?

OLIVIA
E, in private, now.

YVONNE

The most important people in my
life are all in this room.

Olivia stares daggers then stands and exits the dining
room. Yvonne tosses her napkin and follows.

BEN

So, Emma-

EMMA

You're a piece of shit.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME, OLIVIA'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Olivia shuts the door. Yvonne looks about, uncomfortable.

YVONNE

Your and Larry's room. Splendid.

OLIVIA

No. Lawrence no longer lives here.

YVONNE

Good. He's a liar and a cheater,
you *should* be divorcing him...
He's divorcing you. Incredible.

OLIVIA

I'll soon be worth fifteen million
dollars. Save your judgement for
someone who deserves it.

YVONNE

If you spent as much time focused
on being a good mother as you do
doing whatever this is, we might
have a decent relationship.

OLIVIA

Get your grown ass over it. I
didn't hear you complaining about
our relationship when the man I
married bought you a condo and
paid for your Harvard tuition.
Even if you did end up wasting it
on this fashion nonsense.

YVONNE

I majored in business because I'm
passionate about this fashion
nonsense. Not that I expect you to
understand a hard day's work.

OLIVIA

Enough! And what about every summer we spent overseas, Italy, Japan, France. Wherever the hell you wanted because I'd be damned if *my baby* was going to struggle like... You will never understand not being able to provide your child electricity or new shoes or a home without vermin-

YVONNE

Stop! I don't need reminding, I was there. I was the child and I remember it all. Now mother, I am sorry that you have not had a good life. Truly. It's why I work my ass off, so you'll know that I appreciate everything you've done and sacrificed for me. But what you have never and still refuse to understand is, what is acceptable for you is not for me. You don't care that you don't know who your only child's father is. And were actually happy in a loveless marriage because financially you were secure. That's not going to be my life. And yes Larry put me through college, but he is not the reason for my success. I am. *I* worked for this. *I* earned this.

(moves to door)

Charles is good to me which is what I deserve. So give up. Ben and I are not getting back-

OLIVIA

I know who your father is.

(YVONNE freezes)

Nice guy. *Unfortunately*, he was not and still is not worth a dime.

YVONNE

You said... Does he know about me? ...what's his name?

OLIVIA

Ask Ben.

YVONNE

(fighting tears)

...do you know why I became a stylist?

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Because the first time I remember ever seeing you smile was on your wedding day. I thought, if this miserable human being's life can be made better by just putting on a change of clothes, why can't everyone else's.

Yvonne leaves the room. Olivia's eyes gloss as she looks away.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME, DINING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne then Olivia enter and take their seats. Charles kisses Yvonne on the cheek. She is unresponsive.

MIKE

Emma says you're expanding your online services?

CHARLES

...babe?

YVONNE

What? Yes... What?

BEN

So Charles, have you had any success in your field?

CHARLES

I can afford to shop at Yvonne's establishment, so. And she told me your construction company was given to you by your father. That you didn't build it yourself.

OLIVIA

The fact that she talks about her ex around her new man should tell you a thing or two.

MIKE

It does. It says she trusts him with her frustrations. If you ever had a relationship that was worth the time you invested in it, you might know what that was like.

OLIVIA

What do you do again?

MIKE

After enlisting in the United States Army in 1989 at age 19, beginning my military career as Private First Class, serving in the Gulf War, completing three tours in Afghanistan where I, having worked my way up the ranks to First Sergeant, was Medically Retired after being shot four times and losing my left leg below the knee, ending my career, I now operate my own rather successful donut shop. That is if you consider a four man operation that generates eight million a year successful. Seamus, champagne.

Silence as Seamus approaches and refills Mike's glass...

SEAMUS

Thank you for your service.

CHARLES

Here, here. That was odd, I don't know why I said that. Mrs. Hart, will your husband be joining us-

YVONNE

You're really going to hold that over me?

CHARLES

Hold what?

YVONNE

Nothing, let's go.

CHARLES

No. Hold what?

OLIVIA

Listen to your woman, Charles.

CHARLES

No, you know what? I don't know you very well, Mrs. Hart, but you don't love your daughter. Not in the way she deserves. Trying to force her back into a relationship with so many obvious problems-

BEN

So you're in love with her?

CHARLES

What?

BEN

That's why you're so passionate
about keeping us apart, right?

CHARLES

I'm passionate about keeping you
apart because she's my girlfriend.

BEN

Who you're in love with. Right?

(ALL FREEZE)

I love Yvonne. Yvonne, I'm in love
with you. Charles, are you?

Olivia grins, finishing her champagne.

CHARLES

(glaring at Ben)

Let's go.

Yvonne struggles to hide her surprise as Charles pulls
out her chair and escorts her away.

OLIVIA

You need to follow them.

EMMA

Bitch, I came here to eat. I'm
going to eat.

Emma digs in.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Yvonne and Charles enter. She slings her clutch aside!

CHARLES

Can we speak or are you just going
to keep ignoring me? Please-

YVONNE

(near tears)

You could have just said it. Even
if you didn't mean it. Do you have
any idea how humiliating it was to
sit in front of two of my closest
friends, my mother, *my ex fiance*
and have my boyfriend prove that
he'd rather run away than say that
he loves me?

CHARLES

That's not exactly how I saw it-

YVONNE

I said I didn't want to go! Why did I listen to you?

CHARLES

I'm sorry. I should've... Of course I love you, Yvonne. Madly. And sitting there made me realize what an idiot I'd been for not telling you sooner. And that certainly wasn't the place to declare to you how I feel.

YVONNE

It's better than running away.

CHARLES

...today of all days. You said that at dinner. What does it mean?

YVONNE

Oh. Yes. Today was Ben's and my wedding day... Leave your key.

Charles lowers his gaze as Yvonne disappears into her bedroom. He exhales and makes for the door.

INT. KALEY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

GIGGLING beneath the sheets when Kaley's phone RINGS.

Hair a mess and covered in whipped cream, Kaley then Andre appear from beneath the sheets.

KALEY

Oh no. I have a bad feeling about this. *Hello?*

INT. JAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Emma, with cuts and bruises, is using her "one phone call". Not far off, with cuts and bruises, is Olivia.

EMMA

Girl, come get me.

KALEY (OVER THE PHONE)

On my way. Wait, where's Mike?

EMMA

The bitch ducked and I knocked him
out with a chair leg- *Come get me!*

Emma turns as Seamus enters. They briefly lock eyes as he
drapes a coat around Olivia and escorts her out.

INT. KALEY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Andre watches Kaley as she dresses.

ANDRE

Hey. I love you.

Kaley blushes, hiding her face in flattered disbelief.

KALEY

What? Oh my god.

ANDRE

You heard me, woman.

KALEY

OK, me too. Stop.

Still blushing, Kaley exits. Andre leans over and grabs
something from his pant pocket -- a ring box. He smiles.

INT. CHARLES' APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

Charles opens SKYPE: His smiling PARENTS, DEAN and
MAISIE, 60's, Australian accents, appear onscreen.

DEAN

Eh, there's my boy.

MAISIE

Our handsome gift from above.

CHARLES

You were given two gifts.

Dean and Maisie stare blankly...

DEAN

How are you son? How's that pretty
girl of yours?

CHARLES

She and I hit a rough patch. A.K.A
I'm an ass hat.

DEAN

No, your brother's an ass hat. He did his bit again last week with your nana. *Slipped on an acorn.*

MAISIE

We'd already contacted a funeral home *and* the insurance company before he called back to say it was a joke then ask for money.

DEAN

(holds up an urn)
Which he spent on this!

MAISIE

Little asshole.

DEAN

Do you even *have* acorns in America?

CHARLES

Wow. Look. Don't worry about nana. I went by and kicked Jake out. Now she only slices pineapples if *she* wants to. So enough about Jake. I called because I need you, OK? I screwed up. Say something helpful.

DEAN

...I hate your brother, son. But your mother just *had* to go back for him on that ski trip in '94.

MAISIE

I loved him back then. I didn't know any better.

DEAN

They're bloody identical, Maisie- We could've just pretended Jacob was a prank!

CHARLES

It was me you left on that trip.

MAISIE

...that sonofabitch. *Sonofabitch!*

DEAN

The camping trip we could've left him for sure. The wind was right.

CHARLES

Can we get back to me please?

DEAN

Listen son, I don't know what you did, but if you love her, tell her and often while also treating her with respect and keeping your mouth shut when you think of something stupid to say like, *why yes, ranger, that is my son.*

MAISIE

You're just going to hold that over me for the rest of our lives. *I didn't ask you to put two loaves of bread in the oven!*

Exasperated, Dean turns away, throwing his arms up!

MAISIE (CONT'D)

But your father's right. If you love her, you need to tell her. But for God's sake, keep your brother away from us.

DEAN

We hate him, son.

CHARLES

Well. I would thank you both for your help, but you weren't very helpful.

DEAN

...we hate him.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne, Emma and Kaley are lounging about when Yvonne's cell phone RINGS: CHARLES. She ignores the call.

EMMA

Why did you do that? ...I know you're upset, but Charles is not the typical man. You two have something real... You're thinking about talking to Ben, aren't you?

KALEY

Whoa! What? No.

(MORE)

KALEY (CONT'D)

Yvonne, he's gorgeous and all, arguably more gorgeous than Charles- Actually, he is more gorgeous than Charles.

(smiling)

Do you know he and Andre have the same nose. Funny story-

(YVONNE & EMMA stare)

Listen, Olivia holding your father's name hostage is wrong. But if Ben knows and hasn't told you yet, the odds of him telling you without you giving him what he wants in return are very slim.

EMMA

That may be the first intelligent thing I've ever heard you say.

Kaley smiles, proud.

YVONNE

Or maybe he just found out. We were happy once. If I ask him-

EMMA

Baby, he cheated with your maid of honour then asked for the ring back. He won't be honest.

KALEY

Rings. Rings, jewelry. Jewelry, shopping. Shopping, clothes. Have you chosen a color palette theme for our Steve Perry/Journey concert wardrobe? Andre says he needs to know for, reasons.

(YVONNE & EMMA stare)

Another time? Another time.

EMMA

Listen to me, stay away from Ben. Your best bet, and I can't believe I'm saying this, is to get your mother to do the right thing.

YVONNE

She is not going to tell me.

EMMA

Yvonne, I've known you for a long time so I know what this means to you, but-

YVONNE

No, you don't. You both had your father/daughter dance. Someone to send you to your room and teach you to drive and threaten your boyfriends so you'd make curfew. My father doesn't even know I exist. He's never going to tuck me in or help me with homework or be able to look me in the eye and say I'm proud of who you've become and mean it. I'll never have what you two had and still have.

(makes for door)

At this point, I'll settle for his name.

EMMA

And what about Charles?

Yvonne exits. A moment, she pops back in.

YVONNE

And I was going to reveal this in your pre-birthday faux fur coat and slippers exchange party next week, but the color palette theme...is blue sand. Plan accordingly.

Yvonne grins, smugly and goes. Kaley is thrilled until-

EMMA

Where's Chad?

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE, BUILDING FOUNDATION -- CONTINUOUS

Chad, Patrick, Sean, Juan-Pablo and Kyle, each dressed in all black, lower their masks as they stealthily move past the SECURITY GUARDS and distracted CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. Chad gives them hand signals then repels down into the foundation site.

INT. CONSTRUCTION SITE, FOUNDATION -- CONTINUOUS

100 feet down, Chad halts the ropes then drops a rock. Several moments and it sounds on the foundation floor. Chad then removes and activates a BOMB: ONE MINUTE!

CHAD

Three-hundred million dollar contract my augmented ass.

Chad sticks the bomb to the foundation wall then tugs on the ropes.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE, FOUNDATION -- CONTINUOUS

Patrick, Sean, Juan-Pablo and Kyle pull until Chad, in all his dramatic glory, is visible. They free him from his ropes and take off!

KYLE

Run, bitches!

PATRICK

You gon' die!

The MEN on the construction take off!

CHAD

Ben cheats! He cheats with white girls yahl!

THE FOUNDATION EXPLODES!

Chad, Patrick, Sean, Juan-Pablo and Kyle are SENT FLYING!

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

RETURN TO FIRST
SCENE:

A KNOCK.

BEN, opens the door to Yvonne. She smiles.

BEN

Baby, what are you doing here?

YVONNE

I came to talk. I want to work this out.

BEN

Come here.

He pulls her in for a sweet embrace, kisses her forehead.

BEN

I missed you, you know that right?

YVONNE

I think so.

(pulls back)

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Look me in the eye and tell me you really want this. I can't keep doing this. I don't deserve it... And I need something from you.

BEN

I do, I swear on my life, this is our fairy-tale. And of course, anything you need... But give me a couple of minutes.

YVONNE

What?

BEN

Just a few minutes. You go start the car and I'll treat you to breakfast.

YVONNE

Why don't you just make me breakfast? You know that's one of my favorite things.

BEN

No. Go, go, go start the car.

Yvonne notices the pink panties on the floor.

YVONNE

Those aren't mine.

BEN

You sure? They look about your size.

Yvonne opens her Louis Vuitton bag, removes then dons white Louis Vuitton gloves then removes a Louis Vuitton handkerchief. She kneels and carefully picks up the pink panties. She eyes them in disturbed disbelief then turns her gaze to Ben. He snaps his fingers, "remembering".

BEN

Let me tell you what happened. I was walking home from mass-

YVONNE

You're not Catholic.

BEN (CONT'D)

When I ran into a young lady-
Ugly! Down on her luck. No place to go.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

I invited her back here for a hot meal. Some prayer. Then I, uh, sent her on her way.

YVONNE

You sent her on her way without her underwear?

BEN

How do I know that's not your underwear?

FEMALE SINGING from another room.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Chelsea pulls back the shower door.

YVONNE

Chelsea.

CHELSEA

Yvonne! Ben didn't tell me you were joining us, you bad boy.

YVONNE

Joining you?

CHELSEA

Someone always joins us. Isn't that right, Benny? I've been campaigning for you for goodness knows how long... But if you aren't going to, would you mind? You're letting in a draft.

Chelsea gestures for Yvonne to leave as she shuts the shower door. Yvonne turns to Ben.

YVONNE

All the women in this city and you choose her? Again?!

CHELSEA

A draft!

Yvonne yanks open a cabinet and removes toilet bowl cleaner. She opens the shower door and squirts it all over Chelsea who screams as Yvonne then SMACKS her repeatedly with the empty bottle! She then pushes past Ben and makes her way to the living room.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

YVONNE

Just so you know, I didn't come
here to get back together. I came
here to ask you about my father.

BEN

(intrigued, smiles)
Can we get back together?

Yvonne hurls a dining room chair at Ben!

BEN

Are you crazy?!

YVONNE

Tell me his name!

BEN

Let's sit down and talk.

Yvonne wrecks Ben's apartment as she makes for the door.
She throws Ben's Komodo Dragon at him!

BEN

Jared!

Yvonne uses the distraction to escape out the front door.
Ben sets Jared back in his tank, becoming delightfully
distracted as he pets him. He remembers himself!

BEN

Yvonne!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

BEN

Yvonne!

YVONNE

(halts)
Tell me his name. *Tell me!*

Ben stares.

Yvonne smirks, tears welling. She hurries down the
stairs. Her cell phone RINGS: EMMA. Yvonne answers.

YVONNE

You were right. He knew... He did
what?

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Ben shuts the front door. His CELL PHONE RINGS. He finds it in the midst of rubble and stands -- something on his phone is disturbing. He turns on the television and finds THE NEWS -- his construction site has been blown to bits.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON T.V.)

At this time, authorities have neither suspects nor motives. The only evidence they have to go on are two items found at the scene of the crime: A tube of strawberry lip gloss, an open grape flavored condom and a witness who overheard a suspect shouting, "*Ben cheats. He cheats with white girls, yahl.*"

Chelsea enters, oblivious to the mess as she nuzzles Ben.

CHELSEA

You're too good for that rich snob. Besides, we don't need her money. Because we have your money.

Ben drops the remote.

EXT. SIDEWALK -- CONTINUOUS

Yvonne halts her car on the curb and rolls down the passenger window!

Dressed in a black corduroy suit, sunglasses, a black floppy hat, mimosa in one hand, pocket watch in the other, Chad approaches and takes the passenger seat.

CHAD

Drive on, sweet muse.

YVONNE

What the hell were you thinking?
And what's with the pocket watch?

CHAD

Drive on.

Yvonne drives away.

INT. YVONNE'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR -- LATER

Yvonne enters holding a pizza and brown paper bag when Charles approaches from the kitchen.

CHARLES

Yvonne, Yvonne!

YVONNE

What are you doing here? I said leave the key.

CHARLES

Why would I do that? I want to be near you.

Yvonne starts, but Charles lifts a finger to shush her then removes a list from his pocket and reads-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Reasons to get back together: One, we make each other laugh. I'm funny on my own, but your dry, sometimes hurtful sense of humor truly lifts the relationship. Two, you care about people, you give back. Three, the love. Which I should've mentioned first. I love you, you're great and so on. Four, when I ask you what you want to eat you actually tell me what you want to eat and you don't change your mind. I mean, we're so blessed. Five, you walk around in your underwear which I appreciate and really don't want to lose.

YVONNE

Can I just-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Six. The sex. I don't want to lose you, but I really don't want to lose the sex. And that's actually reasons six through nine. Ten.

(cheesy smile with-)

The way you are with animals-

(annoyed)

Really makes me wish we had one.

YVONNE

I'm allergic.

CHARLES

(brushes her off)

Eleven. You make me happy. You are kind and brave. You care about those around you, despite their many, many, many, many, many, many-

YVONNE

Stay focused.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Many faults. You're intelligent
and you've learned not to settle
which is why *I'm* good for you...
Emma told me about your father.

Charles sets the note aside and moves to Yvonne. He sets
the pizza and paper bag on the counter and kisses her.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Twelve. I'm a klutz, but you stick
around. Thirteen, your superior
pancakes. Fourteen, I love you.

YVONNE

You said that already.

CHARLES

I like to play the hits.

YVONNE

...listen to me. I appreciate
everything you just said. And
you're a wonderful, you are. The
problem is... We never broke up.

CHARLES

What? Yes we did, of course we
did. What are you talking about?

YVONNE

We never broke up.
(grins, teasing)
But I am flattered.

CHARLES

Yes. I did something stupid, you
were upset, you kicked me out, you-

Yvonne reaches inside the paper bag and removes a jar of
sliced mushrooms, displaying it with a blank expression.

CHARLES

Oh... Then this is embarrassing.

YVONNE

I thought it was very sweet.

CHARLES

(blushes, looks off)
Whatever.

YVONNE

Besides. If we'd broken up, trust me, Chad would've let you know it.

CHARLES

(laughing)

Yeah, Emma said you dated a chef once who dumped you for a ballerina and, haha, Chad and his friends cut off his thumbs and set his restaurant on fire. That Emma.

YVONNE

(...forces a smile)

Mhm.

CHARLES

(still laughing)

She seemed so serious, I almost- I almost Googled it.

YVONNE

(smiling)

Oh, don't do that.

CHARLES

I do love you. But don't feel pressured. Just say whatever is in your heart like, you're incredible Charles and you're perfect for me and you qualify for thirty percent off your next order. Something like that.

YVONNE

I do love you. And you are perfect for me because you deserve me. And I can say that because feminism.

(Charles kisses her)

But no discounts, OK? These mushrooms ain't cheap.

Charles laughs and pulls Yvonne in for a kiss-

Charles pulls back, now dressed in a suit. Yvonne is wearing a cocktail dress, her apartment filled with silver and white balloons. A CELEBRATION.

Shirtless, Patrick, Sean, Juan-Pablo and Kyle serve champagne and hor d'oeuvres to Yvonne and Charles' guests: Chad, Emma, Mike, Andre, Kaley -- she is wearing an engagement ring -- Dean, Maisie, Suzanne, Gerald, and a DOZEN MORE.

PATRICK
 (to Maisie)
 Damn, Mrs. G. You are wearing that
 dress.

KYLE
 Wearing-that-dress.

Maisie blushes while Dean aggressively takes two glasses
 of champagne from their tray and leads Maisie away.

SUZANNE
 (to a COUPLE)
 Fun fact: A marriage does not need
 love to survive. Only money.

YVONNE
 I still think you should have
 invited your brother.

CHARLES
 Oh, darling. That's because you
 don't know any better.

DOORBELL RINGS.

Yvonne opens the door to Olivia and Seamus.

YVONNE
 So you've finally gone public.

SEAMUS
 Two months now. You look lovely.

YVONNE
 Thank you. Mother.

Olivia hands Yvonne a folded note. Yvonne opens it.

OLIVIA
 That's your father's name and
 address. If he's still the man I
 knew, he'll be happy to know you.

Olivia and Seamus start off when-

YVONNE
 Wait... There's plenty of food.

Olivia and Seamus enter, but Seamus breaks away leaving
 Yvonne and Olivia alone, side by side.

OLIVIA
 You have a lot of friends.

YVONNE

Well, when you're nice to people.

OLIVIA

...your ring is very nice.

YVONNE

Thank you. Charles designed it.

OLIVIA

...Ben didn't deserve you. I just wanted you to be provided for and... It doesn't matter. He got what he deserved.

YVONNE

He just filed for bankruptcy, Chelsea's pregnant and they had to move in with his mother. I'd say he got more than he deserved.

OLIVIA

Well, when you cheat with white girls.

Olivia smirks as she steps away. A moment, Yvonne's eyes widen. She makes eye contact with Chad! He winks.

Charles approaches.

CHARLES

Are you alright? What happened?

Yvonne smiles and pulls Charles in for an embrace.

YVONNE

You... You.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME, FRONT DOOR -- AFTERNOON

Yvonne and Charles halt at the front steps.

CHARLES

You don't have to do this now.

YVONNE

I do. I've always wanted my dad to walk me down the aisle. If he's half decent, this is my chance.

Yvonne takes a deep breath.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME, FRONT DOOR -- CONTINUOUS
DOORBELL RINGS.

**BEV, 30's, dark hair, attractive opens the door.

BEV
Hi, can I help you?

YVONNE
Yes, we're looking for-

Smiling, Chris appears behind Bev and kisses her cheek.
He freaks out upon seeing Yvonne and lunges at her!

Charles pulls Yvonne out of the way just in time.

CHARLES
Are you crazy?!

Bev pulls Chris back and calms him.

BEV
Who are you people?

CHRIS
She's a sea witch! And this one?
(squints)
The doctor!

BEV
Jake?

Chris lunges at Charles, but Bev pulls him back when
Yvonne removes her shoe and SMACKS Chris in the face!

CHARLES
I'm not Jake. I'm Charles.

BEV
I don't care. You're both crazy
and I'm calling the police.

YVONNE
Good! But first, does this man
lives in your neighborhood? I
Googled his name and very oddly
nothing came up.

Bev snatches the paper and reads. Chris peeks at the
paper then eyes Yvonne suspiciously.

BEV

Yes. What do you want with him?

YVONNE

Not that it's any of your
business, but he's my father.

In shock, Bev drops the paper as a heartfelt smile makes
its way across Chris' face. Bev steps away.

CHRIS

I'm your father?

YVONNE

No, ass hat. Chris Grumsfelder is
my father. And he's... Not you.
(swallows, concerned)
Is he?

Chris wipes his tears, pulling Yvonne in for an embrace.

CHRIS

My pretty princess.

RILEY, 4, Chris and Bev's daughter, approaches.

RILEY

I thought I was your pretty
princess.

Chris frowns and "buzzes" Riley away.

CHARLES

What's happening? Yvonne?

YVONNE

Charles?

CHRIS

Bev, darling?

Bev returns to the door, her cell phone to her ear.

BEV

Johniee?

BLACK.